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Middle East & North Africa

Vol V No 37 *23 February 1978*

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VOP ON ANTI-PALESTINIAN DEMONSTRATION IN CAIRO

JN222018Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1500 GMT 22 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Under the headline "Slogan of Shame," FALASTIN ATH-THAWRAH today says: Since the return of the Egyptian forces from Al-Falujah [in southern Palestine] and the issuance of Proclamation No 1 of the July [1952] Revolution which put an end to the era of pashas, we have been accustomed to the fraternal Egyptian people's raising patriotic and pan-Arab slogans and advocating revolutionary transformation. All these actions tended to pour into one river--into the Nile and toward the occupied Palestinian homeland. In simple words, 'Abd an-Nasir told the Egyptian and the Arabs: We though of the revolution when we were in Palestine.

Throughout 'Abd an-Nasir's era Egypt mobilized all its resources and gathered the Arabs around it. Egypt attracted the freemen in the Arab world toward one goal; namely, the liberation of Palestine. The Egyptian Arab people bore much and sacrificed the cream of their youth in four wars under the slogan of Arab rights in Palestine. The Arab and Egyptian people have been accustomed to the fact that from the birth of the 1952 revolution until the death of 'Abd an-Nasir, all social transformations, accomplishments and the daring decisions against imperialism were expressions in favor of the just Palestinian issue. Thus Egypt was the throbbing heart of the Arabs. Egypt became the focus of attention of Arab nationalists. It thus found its way to the heart of every Palestinian and became the refuge and hope of all Arab freemen.

All the above makes us say that it never occurred to any Arab citizen, particularly if he were Egyptian or Palestinian--not even in the era of As-Sadat's apostasy--that a demonstration could take place in Egypt under a slogan to which puzzled even the Zionists--a slogan saying "No Palestine After Today." This is indeed a strange slogan which no one can believe. No logic can justify it. All the enemies of Egypt, Palestine, and the Arab nation could not have dreamed ot it.

The question which must loom over the heads of those who were sent out into the streets to shout this slogan in Cairo, not Tel Aviv, is: Could the incident of the assassination of As-Siba'i at the hands of two young men who claim to be Palestinians--and even if they were--change the Egyptian masses in this way and make them raise this slogan of shame and thus (?disavow) all the slogans Egypt had raised throughout 30 years for Palestine and Egypt's dignity? Our Palestinian masses inside and outside Palestine, represented by their leadership the PLO, denounced, condemned and repudiated this incident and repeatedly declared that they do not believe in such practices regardless of their source and motives. Was this not enough to make As-Sadat's regime feel shame and hesitate before raising this shameful slogan?

We find the Egyptian people not guilty of raising this slogan. We find As-Sadat and the pashas of 1977 guilty of it because we heard him--and his colleagues in the Zionist entity and masters in the White House also heard him--say recently that the Jews have discovered that there is no Arab who could not be bought together with the land on which he lives. [Words indistinct] perhaps As-Sadat means himself by this because he has proved it by deeds. [Words indistinct] those who were driven by As-Sadat's intelligence to demonstrate. We do realize that the predicament to which this man has fallen victim and his political bankruptcy drove him to invade Cyprus in the style of his new friends.

PLO DENIES PARTICIPATION IN LARNACA SHOOTINGS

TA221450Y Paris AFP in English 1423 GMT 23 Feb 78 TA

[Text] Beirut, Feb 22 (AFP)--The Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) today denied that its delegation had taken part in the Egyptian-Cypriot shoot-out at Larnaca Airport on Sunday. The PLO spokesman was referring to a front-page report in the INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE which said, "A handpicked squad of Palestinian guerrillas fought alongside Cyprus National Guard forces in the Larnaca Airport gun battle in which 15 members of an Egyptian commando force were killed."

A delegation of PLO officials flew to Cyprus on Saturday at the invitation of the Cyprus Government to help negotiations with the two gunmen who had assassinated an Egyptian journalist and then held 11 Arabs and four crew members hostage in a Cypriot airlines plane. The delegation was not at Larnaca at the time of the shooting, the spokesman said here.

PLO: AS-SIBA'I ASSASSINS BELONG TO NO ORGANIZATION

JN2111054Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1010 GMT 21 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 21 February--Zakariya 'Abd ar-Rahim, alias Abu Yahya, director of the PLO office in Cyprus, has declared that the killers of Yusuf as-Siba'i do not belong to any organization at all.

In statements published by the newspaper AL-LIWA' today, Abu Yahya said that the two armed men are students who carried out this operation on their own initiative and that they informed him during the negotiations that they would surrender themselves to the Cypriot authorities, who promised to facilitate their departure to a country of their choosing to continue their studies. Abu Yahya added: The two armed men refused to land at Damascus airport because there was a Cypriot-Syrian agreement to hand them over to the PLO and to release the hostages. Asked whether the PLO will ask the Cypriot authorities to hand over the two armed men to the PLO, Abu Yahya said: So far I have received no instructions about this from the PLO command.

Abu Yahya denied that the PLO had drawn up a plan to storm the plane. He revealed the threats made by As-Sadat's regime to Cyprus on Sunday evening to send in another plane to complete the task started by the first plane. He said the Cypriot stand in this connection was firm and that Cyprus informed As-Sadat's regime that it is ready to fight in defense of its sovereignty.

PLO LEADER SAYS AS-SADAT BETRAYS EGYPTIAN PEOPLE

FL230040Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Feb 78 FL

[Text] The Palestine Liberation Organization [PLO] delegation visiting Cuba has termed the recent incursion of Egyptian commandos against an airport in Cyprus as a demonstration of the reactionary policy of Anwar as-Sadat's government. The delegation headed by (?Abu Jihad), member of Fatah's Revolutionary Council, chief of its foreign relations department, and member of the Palestine National and Central councils, held a press conference today at the main offices of the Afro-Asian-Latin American Peoples Solidarity Organization, AALAPSO.

(?Abu Jihad) stated that the objective of those airborne forces was to destroy the Cypriot aircraft and, with it, the hostages, among whom were four Egyptians who are members of the progressive forces opposed to As-Sadat's policy.

The visitors charged that following the visit paid by the Egyptian head of state to Israel, a new attack is being prepared against Lebanon, against the Lebanese national movement and the Palestinian revolution. (?Abu Jihad) called As-Sadat's visit to occupied Jerusalem a betrayal of the Egyptian people, of the Palestinian struggle and of the Arab and African liberation movements.

'ARAFAT INSPECTS POSITIONS IN SOUTHERN LEBANON

JN221751Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1500 GMT 22 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar, PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, accompanied by brother Staff Col Sa'd Sayil, spent all of yesterday inspecting the military positions of the forces of the Palestinian revolution in the south. Abu 'Ammar's tour covered An-Nabatiyah, Al-Khardali, and [word indistinct].. He met with the fighters of the revolution and its military and political cadres in their positions. He explained to them the picture of the current situation. He also stressed the need of constant vigilance to deal with any sudden move by the enemy in the south.

DPFLP'S HAWATIMAH ANALYZES AS-SADAT INITIATIVE

LD171429Y Brussels LE SOIR in French 12-13 Feb 78 p 3 LD

[Lucien George Beirut report: "Palestinians in South Lebanon--for a Long Time to Come"]

[Excerpt] Many Palestinian leaders believe that the Egyptian head of state is courting complete failure. Their analysis is simple--Mr As-Sadat is prepared to let everything go, whereas Mr Begin will give nothing in exchange, irrespective of any Egyptian concessions. He has shown and will again show this, and a dialog of the deaf will continue between Egypt and Israel, a dialog which will lead either to As-Sadat's rejoining the Arab ranks or to his disappearance.

However, some other people believe that the Egyptian president will eventually achieve results. Nayif Hawatimah, leader of the Democratic Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DPFLP], explains this as follows: "President as-Sadat," Hawatimah believes, "continues to rely on the results of American and European pressures on Israel. By going to Jerusalem, he has tried to speed up the implementation of an American plan which he had already accepted and which he implemented as far as the part devolved on him is concerned--peace and normal relations. But as a counterpart Israel should have withdrawn from all of Sinai and most of the Golan Heights, and a Palestinian entity, which would remain under Jordanian-Israeli codominion for 5-7 years and then be incorporated into Jordan, should have been created. Thereupon Mr As-Sadat realized that there were some real differences between the American and the Israeli plans. I believe that the United States has really sought to achieve a global settlement to its own and Israel's advantage, but a global settlement nonetheless. It did not succeed. However, I believe that it will insure for the Egyptian president minimal conditions for a separate peace. I also believe that this kind of peace will not be accepted by the Egyptian people, in any case, for some years. But I do not believe that it could be 'stomached' even by moderate Arab countries."

"Nor do I believe that Mr As-Sadat could change his tune and, turning around 180 degress, make it up with Moscow--he has allowed himself to run short of too many things both in the political and in the military spheres to be able to do it, and his army is now 20 percent weaker than in October 1973, whereas the Israeli Army is now believed to be 160 percent stronger than in 1973.

In any case, the Soviets would reject any advances on his part.

"We in the DPFLP envisage more than ever the possibility of a bilateral Egyptian-Israeli agreement. We believe that it will be rejected by all Arab countries and that Syria in particular has the necessary means to pursue its policy. Unless--and such possibility cannot be excluded--Israel attacked Syria, Morocco waged war against Algeria and Egypt was at war with Libya. But, in such a situation, the Soviets would appear on the scene.

"We believe that in the event of either a bilateral agreement or of complete failure on As-Sadat's part, a period of trouble in the Near East could commence and spread to the gulf.

"The Palestinian revolution should act in accordance with these realities--it should consolidate the rejectionist front formed in Tripoli, win over the right wing of the PLO, which will find itself in an impasse since it will be unable to accept something King Husayn himself rejects, consolidate its alliance with the socialist countries, intensify its military action and develop its political and trade union bases in the occupied territories."

MILITARY INDUSTRIES ORGANIZATION BEGINS PRODUCTION

LD221615 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 22 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, minister of defense and aviation, said the Arab military industries organization has actually started manufacturing antitank missiles, helicopters and military jeep vehicles. The prince said that the first items of this production will be ready 1 November.

In a statement which AL-JAZIRAH published today, the prince added that the efforts of the kingdom to make this organization reach the stage of serious production conform with the role of the fraternal countries--Qatar, the UAE and Egypt. He said we are all seeking to reinforce our armed forces and to serve the peoples of our nation.

British Help in Production

LD211924Y Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 20 Feb 78 p 1 LD

[Excerpts] Abd Khabi--by 'Abduh Mubashir--The meetings of the higher committee of the Arab military industrialization authority will open here tomorrow to endorse contracts for the establishment of joint companies and the signing of a protocol for technical cooperation between the authority and Britain and for the building of factories that will manufacture helicopters.

The British Westland Company will build the fuselage and Rolls Royce Company will build the engine. Production is to begin before this November.

At its meeting yesterday under the chairmanship of Dr Ashraf Marwan, the management board of the authority discussed the results the authority achieved in the past period, the problems it faced, the amount of military production by the authority's factories and the factories of the joint companies, and the future of such production after the new contracts with companies for manufacture of the Lynx helicopter have been signed.

Gen Muhammad al-Jamasi, deputy prime minister and minister of war and war production, has declined to attend the current session of the higher committee of the Arab military industrialization authority.

KUWAIT

PAPERS COMMENT ON SOVIET-SYRIAN RELATIONS

NC221604Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0945 GMT 22 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 22 February--The Kuwaiti newspaper AS-SIYASAH today quotes Arab political sources as saying that reports of Soviet arms shipments to Syria and of air cover to protect the Syrian heights are exaggerated. These sources say that if these Soviet arms supplies were of the size and type requested by Syria, President al-Asad would not have gone to Moscow at this particular juncture. Quoting the same sources, the paper adds that the Syrian president will raise with the Soviet leaders during his current visit to Moscow the same subjects which had been discussed by Algerian President Houari Boumediene on possible Soviet intervention in the event of Israeli aggression against Syria extending beyond the southern Lebanese border.

Meanwhile, the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-QABAS today carries a dispatch from Beirut that the Soviet Union has given guarantees to the Palestinian resistance, including a pledge that Syria will not embark on any political or military action which would weaken the resistance or which could be considered as directed against it. The paper quotes a responsible Palestinian source as saying that the Soviet stand was recently conveyed to Palestinian officials through the Soviet Embassy in Beirut.

QATAR

OIL MINISTER DENIES SECRET AGREEMENT ON PRICES

NC221245Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1135 GMT 22 Feb 78 NC

[Excerpt] Doha, 22 February--Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Khalifah Al Thani, Qatari minister of finance and oil, has affirmed that the OPEC member states are eager to preserve world economic stability through their awareness of their great responsibilities. In an interview published today in the Qatari magazine AL-KHALIJ AL-JADID, he said that Qatar is currently reviewing all the recent developments related to the fall in the value of the dollar. He said that if the dollar continues to fall and begins to affect oil royalties then OPEC will resort to the studies it has already made for finding a substitute currency.

He denied the existence of any separate secret agreements between certain OPEC member states and the industrial states on prices. He stressed that the unity and cohesion of OPEC can foil any attempts to divide it. He said that the studies related to the adoption of a gulf dinar are continuing as some points and technical matters are still under discussion. He said there is great potential for increasing Qatari oil reserves and for new discoveries.

SAUDI ARABIA

SUDAN'S NUMAYRI MEETS KING, CROWN PRINCE; DEPARTS

LD230052Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 22 Feb 78 LD

[Excerpts] At 1700 this evening King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz received Sudanese President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri and his accompanying delegation at Al-Ma'dar Palace.

The meeting was attended by Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince and deputy prime minister; Shaykh 'Abd ar-Rahman Mansuri, under secretary of the Foreign Ministry for Political Affairs; and Shaykh Mashim, the kingdom's ambassador to Sudan.

Sudanese President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri, together with his accompanying delegation, left Riyadh at 1800 at the end of his private visit to the kingdom.

Prior to his departure President Numayri expressed his pleasure at meeting with King Khalid and his crown prince. In a statement he made to the SAUDI NEWS AGENCY he said that his visit to the kingdom confirms the close ties which link Sudan with the kingdom.

'UKAZ CRITICIZES TERRORISM OF ARAB LEFT

LD2213202 Jidda 'UKAZ in Arabic 20 Feb 78 p 1 LD

[Editorial]

[Excerpts] The terrorism practiced by the Arab left against the Arabs has taken a new turn. Previously leftist terrorism used to harm the Arabs indirectly because of international reaction to crimes committed against various countries, but now the crime of terror is being directed against the Arabs with all the consequent results.

The murder of Yusuf as-Siba'i in Nicosia in fact reflects the inability of the Arab left to face the present reality in the Middle East. And they are resorting to sabotage, assassination and kidnaping. Such actions have failed to achieve the objective of the left. The crimes committed by the left represent a reckless reaction to the realization that its role in the Middle East area is coming to an end once and for all.

The Arab community must seriously view this phenomenon and put up a joint front to fight it because its outcome will harm the Arabs' reputation in all international circles and consequently harm the serious peace steps that are being taken in the area for the well-being of man.

We agree with the sound Arab view that criminal behavior at this stage in particular and the escalation of crime in the ranks of the Arab left is treason in favor of Israel, since Israel is believed to have played a role in motivating this criminal activity among those leftists opposed to the peace steps. This is proved by the fact that the terrorists declared their objective to be the liquidation of all those who participated in the peace efforts with Israel.

Our sympathy with Arab opinion that condemns the left inside and outside the area stems from our realization that leftist aims and activities are not related to the land or to national values but are an attempt to impose foreign ideologies and philosophies on its land, even if it means conspiring against both the land and the man.

EGYPT SEVERS DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH CYPRUS

NC221849Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1847 GMT 22 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 22 February--Egypt today completely severed its diplomatic relations with Cyprus. The Egyptian Foreign Ministry has asked the Cyprus ambassador in Cairo, Sotiriadhis, to close the embassy and the Cyprus Consulate in Alexandria and to leave the country immediately. Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali summoned the Cyprus ambassador at 2000 today and informed him of the decision by the president of the republic to withdraw recognition of Kiprianou.

He also informed him that among the results of this decision is the complete severance of relations between Egypt and Cyprus, the closure of the Cyprus Embassy in Cairo and the Cyprus Consulate in Alexandria and the immediate departure of the Cyprus mission from Egypt.

The Cyprus ambassador told MENA that he is extremely sad that after spending 12 years in Egypt, during which he was doyen of the diplomatic corps in Cairo, his mission in Cairo should end as a result of this painful incident. The Cyprus ambassador said he will leave Cairo for Cyprus shortly.

MENA has learned that Egyptian Ambassador in Cyprus Hasan Shash will arrive in Cairo Friday.

AS-SADAT RETURNS TO ISMAILIA ON 22 FEBRUARY

NC221357Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1350 GMT 22 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Ismailia, 22 February--President Anwar as-Sadat returned to Ismailia at 1430 today after taking part in the funeral of the shock forces martyrs who were killed in the operation to save the hostages at Larnaca airport in Cyprus. President as-Sadat was accompanied by Mashhur Ahmad Mashhur, chairman of the Suez Canal Authority, and Engineer 'Uthman Ahmad 'Uthman, head of the Ismailia Governorate parliamentary group. President as-Sadat was received upon his arrival at An-Nakhil airport in Ismailia by Ismailia Governor Mahmud Zaki 'Abd al-Latif.

Recovering From Severe Cold

NC221844Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 22 Feb 78 NC

[Text] President Anwar as-Sadat will retire for several days in Ismailia following a severe cold. The president was not supposed to leave Ismailia before fully recovering from this bout. But he was very anxious to be with the masses of his people to see to their final resting place the hero martyrs of the shock and air forces who were felled by the bullets of treachery while carrying out their noble mission of resisting international terrorism and for the sake of their nation's honor and security.

ATHERTON ARRIVES IN CAIRO, MAKES STATEMENT

NC221920Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 22 Feb 78 NC

[Text] U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Alfred Atherton arrived in Cairo this evening in the course of his visit to Middle East states.

After his arrival Mr Atherton made a statement in which he expressed happiness at returning to Cairo again. He said that since he left from Cairo after his last visit, President Anwar as-Sadat paid an extremely important visit to Washington during which he held talks with President Carter.

He said that he has come to the area to continue the efforts to achieve agreement on a declaration of principles for a comprehensive peaceful settlement. Mr Atherton said that President Carter promised President as-Sadat that the United States will intensify its efforts and that the arrival of the U.S. assistant secretary of state is to carry out this promise and maintain the important negotiations.

He said he will meet with the Egyptian foreign minister tomorrow to discuss specific ideas concerning the declaration of principles. He added that he will go back to Israel and then will return to Cairo to continue the talks. Concluding his statement, Mr Atherton said that Egypt and Israel are determined to exert efforts to achieve progress in the talks and that the United States shares this determination with them.

MATERIALS RELATING TO EVENTS, FIGHTING ON CYPRUS

Text of As-Sadat Speech to Troops

NC222128Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1844 GMT 22 Feb 78 NC

[Speech by President Anwar as-Sadat on 22 February to members of the shock force and air force who took part in the operation at Larnaca airport, Cyprus--recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, my sons, men of the shock and air forces, on behalf of your people and myself, I address special greetings to every one of you for your splendid heroic action in Cyprus in defense of Egypt, in defense of every son of Egypt, of Egypt's valor and its honor. You know, my sons, that we are facing some small challenges. I cannot describe them as anything more than small challenges because the perpetrators are small in their thinking and in their attitude. These people must realize that Egypt will remain the heart of the Arab nation and the key to everything in the area whether they like it or not.

You know about my initiative in visiting Jerusalem. You have heard about it and you heard me say that I would go to the ends of the earth if it meant preventing the shedding of one drop of the blood of any of my sons the soldiers and the officers. I did indeed go to the Knesset. You heard and so did the whole world hear how I faced them there, with all the facts. The entire world shook from end to end and is still shaking to this day. Many concepts have changed. If the Israeli Government still has not changed its concepts, there will be no turning back, now that the whole world has supported us and continues to support us for the sake of establishing peace.

Some may be forgiven for rancor once, for ignorance once and for incompetence once, or for all these together. There is a grudge against Egypt because the whole world, as you have read, my sons, talks only about Egypt now.

You have heard about my recent trip to the United States and, after my meeting with President Carter, my visit to Europe and my meetings with British Prime Minister Callaghan, German Chancellor Schmidt, Austrian Chancellor Kreisky, Romanian President Ceausescu, French President Giscard d'Estaing, Italian President Leone and the pope. You have all heard about this trip, and you know that to this day the world is still dazzled by our conscious moves to preserve every right.

This, my sons, would not have been easy without the October battle, without what you men of the shock force, the air force, the special forces and all the other branches of the armed forces did, without your magnificent performance in October 1973. In Israel they have fully acknowledged the role and splendid performance of our armed forces. This is why some small people are tempted to commit such crimes as the assassination of As-Siba'i and then try to give the world the impression that they constitute a front or that they have some value or influence. The whole world knows that they are insignificant. From this spot here I promise you, my sons, that I will wreak punishment on everyone who had a hand in this crime. I promise you and I promise our people this. Egypt does not commit aggression, but whoever commits aggression against us must bear the consequences and must know that we will return the aggression tenfold.

Our duty, my sons, is to protect the honor of our country. When As-Siba'i was subjected to the crime of treachery, treason and despicableness by those small ones, we decided to punish those who committed this crime in order to tell others that we shall go to the end of this earth to punish all those who contemplate harming the dignity of Egypt or its sons. This is the duty of our armed forces.

We followed the movements of the plane, and I issued my orders. This operation was supposed to have taken place in Djibouti. I am revealing for the first time that we had contacted Djibouti and it was fully prepared to receive you so you could carry out your duty. However, the place changed, as the airplane had left Djibouti and headed for Cyprus. Therefore, we changed the course of the plane from Djibouti to Cyprus so you could carry out your duty for Egypt and prove to the whole world that we would return the aggression tenfold.

Contact was made with Djibouti, and Djibouti agreed. Contact was made with Cyprus. Cyprus was informed that the plane was carrying our sons to assist the Cyprus Government to confront this aggression and this crime, especially after the terrorists had insulted the president of Cyprus himself. They insulted him. When he contacted them, they said: We will not talk to him. Call the leader of the Socialist Party. At the least he should have gotten angry at the insult to his dignity. But, regrettably, he did not. They knew that you were on your way to them. They knew that you had landed at Larnaca airport. But there are many question marks. The future will see to it that we find the answers and teach everyone who had a hand in this treachery and this treason a lesson he will not forget.

But I tell you my sons, you know, as happened in October, we carry out our operations with absolute precision and after complete preparation. Cyprus was notified. But let me suppose that Cyprus was not notified. Let me open the history books, the history of Cyprus with us and ours with Cyprus. Yusuf as-Siba'i, who was killed in Cyprus by two criminals who disarmed the Cyprus police, defended Cyprus continuously for 22 years.

When Makarios was released from exile in the Seychelles--and he was a dear friend and a beloved brother to me--Egypt welcomed him and accorded him its hospitality until Cyprus became independent. The whole world remembers Makarios and Eden, who detained him. Eden's political life had ended then, and Makarios was returning from exile to achieve independence for Cyprus. History also shows that when Cyprus was without weapons--and everyone is hearing me in Cyprus--Makarios found only Egypt to resort to. We sent him weapons. The president of the republic who succeeded Makarios knows this very well. He knows that even Greece--and the Greek Cypriots are of Greek origin--did not give him what Egypt gave him. May God bless the soul of Makarios. He was a hero and a man. We helped Cyprus and supported it in all fields before its independence. As I told you, I had the closest ties with Makarios--to the extent that after the Greek officers' coup against him, he came to visit me after having left the island incognito. I told him to remain in Alexandria and use it as his headquarters until he returned to his country.

This was the state of our relations with Cyprus. Kiprianou knows and hears all I am telling you. He is seeking a meeting with me. There will be no talk between him and me. Cyprus must hand the hired criminals over to us. We will talk afterward. We will not abandon this demand. Cyprus must also justify the treachery which befell my sons there.

As I told you, even without getting permission, this should not have happened at all. They could not stop two criminals. We ask here: Was there collusion or not? But when my sons went to restore to the Cyprus president his honor and respect and to Cyprus its honor and respect, they committed this treacherous crime against them. The question is not that of the martyrdom of my sons. We are all ready to die for Egypt at any time, but we do not accept treachery and treason, and we will return aggression, as I have said, tenfold. The president of Cyprus hears me now.

Here is the sequence of events as they happened. The shock force commander gave them 90 minutes to talk with the hired criminals. There was an agreement. When the commander of the shock force learned about it, it became clear to him--he had specific instructions to return with the hostages and the two terrorist criminals and he was following what was going on between the airport tower and the criminals--and it also became clear to us here in Egypt, because we were following everything as the shock force commander was doing on the spot at the airport, it became clear that Cyprus was preparing two passports for the two criminals so that they could leave Cyprus as if they had committed no crime. It was then that the shock force commander made his decision and carried out the operation.

I tell you my sons, I studied all this. As you know and as we did in October, we study everything. Everyone in the armed forces performed his duty in the most splendid manner. The shock force commander, with the decision he made to attack the plane and with the rescue of the hostages and the arrest of the criminals, accomplished his mission. He accomplished his mission with a decision he made on the basis of the mission that was assigned him. It was not his decision, my sons; it was my decision. Any of my sons in any position who has an assignment gets full authority and freedom to make the decision.

It was a lowly act of treachery, but as I have told you it will never go unpunished. Let the whole world hear me now: The government's decision to withdraw the diplomatic mission was a sound and conscious decision.

I want to tell you, my sons, that in this battle of challenge we are engaged in now, they want to undermine Egypt, but Egypt will be Egypt throughout the centuries. It is the Egypt of the post-October war with which the Arabs, through you and your blood and fighting, crossed from defeat to victory and from humiliation and disgrace to dignity to become the sixth world power today. This was achieved by you and by what you did.

We still have other duties to carry out, my sons, so that those who do not know and those who do not want to know or are stubborn will know their place and size. The mission in Larnaca was accomplished in a most magnificent manner, and it ended in the release of the hostages and the arrest of the criminals. My sons were martyred as a result of the treachery in Cyprus represented in the decision of Kiprianou, who must pay the price.

I tell you: You carried out the mission and proved once again to those who are presumptuous that Egypt, which crossed the most awful water barrier in military history and destroyed the Bar-Lev line through your performance in combat, will remain lofty in the sky and will not be affected by the small ones at all. We are all ready to sacrifice our lives so that Egypt may remain lofty.

You heard me say on 16 October, at the beginning of our battle, that when we were in a state of defeat after the 1967 battle and when we were being torn by bitterness and our heads were bleeding from humiliation, we never lowered our heads but kept them high, and especially now we do so after we triumphed and crossed the canal in October for the sake of all our Arab nation and not just Egypt.

I say this so that whole world can hear. We shall return the aggression tenfold. Let everyone hear this. As for Cyprus, it must bear the consequences of what has happened. You know that Cyprus is experiencing a problem--the problem of the Turkish occupation, which took place after the attempted coup against Makarios. When Kiprianou was elected, the Turks on the island did not recognize him. The first country to recognize him was Egypt. I gave clear orders to the foreign minister to strengthen his position. Why? Because we have always followed the course of justice, right and freedom. Makarios epitomized all these qualities. He was an honorable struggler. I wanted to honor his successor, and so we recognized him from the first moment. Today, after the cabinet's decision--and it was I who asked the foreign minister to recognize Kiprianou immediately, in spite of all the forces around him--there is no room, after Makarios, to deal with such dwarfs. We recognized him as president of the republic--and he hears me now--as an endorsement of Makarios' role with us in the long struggle. Our recogniton of him is withdrawn as of today.

The hired murderers and criminals must be handed over. The Palestinians and all the Arabs must know that Egypt will return every blow tenfold. Treachery, treason and deception cause confusion everywhere. We have been defending the Palestinian issue in every forum as our own cause, while they are hiring themselves out as killers and terrorists in bars and cabarets.

Let them know and let those who do not know know that Egypt will remain the mother and mainstay of the Arabs, the Egypt of the Arabs which crossed for them and restored their self-confident. Egypt will trample the dwarfs regardless of the price. There can be no going back.

I shall never again permit the fate of Egypt to be in the hands of a few agents or a few small or mad people. I shall never permit anyone, however strong he may think himself, to impose the line he wants on Egypt. Egypt knows very well what it wants. Egypt knows its historic responsibilities and is proud of them. Egypt will tell all the small and stupid people, all the mercenaries and clowns: Stay in your place.

There are no better words to end my address to you, my sons, than what I have said before: Even in the darkest moments when our heads were bleeding and we were going through a period of bitterness, pain, and humiliation as a result of defeat, our heads remained upright and lofty in the sky. Today after the October war and the October generation, which you, my sons, have created by your performance, our heads will remain lofty forever, God willing, in the sky, providing light for friend and foe alike.

May God grant you success. Peace and God's blessing be upon you.

MENA Editor's Commentary

NC221732Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1530 GMT 22 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 22 February--Commenting on the assassination of AAPSO Secretary General Yusuf as-Siba'i in Cyprus, the spiriting out of his assassins and the use of the Cyprus army to prevent their arrest, MENA's political editor says that this crime should draw the attention of the world to a new danger, which is that the weapon of terrorism has begun to be used by governments and states as an instrument for imposing policies or changing them. It is no longer just the weapon of individuals or extremist organizations which have no way of expressing themselves except by this method.

What is dangerous about this weapon is that a small state can become involved in a big international conspiracy to the extent of collaborating in facilitating acts of murder and protecting the hireling culprits.

Egypt has paid 15 dead from the cream of its sons as a price for unmasking the international dimensions of this conspiracy. It remains for the world to cooperate vigilantly and seriously to foil this dangerous method and stop it from spreading. Egypt was the target of the conspiracy this time, but no one knows who will be the next target or where.

The international dimensions of this conspiracy are represented in the killing of Yusuf as-Siba'i. He was not killed because he was a great Egyptian journalist or because he visited Jerusalem on the peace journey, but because he was the secretary general of AAPSO. Perhaps causing a vacancy in the post Yusuf as-Siba'i had occupied for 20 years was an important international goal.

MENA's political editor goes on to say: The killing took place on the territory of a state which until the last moment was pretending to be a friendly state. It took place while the AAPSO conference was being held on its territory and after that state had promised to take the necessary security measures.

Suddenly it became obvious in a way calling for suspicion that there was no security at all, to the extent that As-Siba'i found himself alone before his killers in the hotel corridor. The hotel was full of guests and delegates to the conference, but no security measures were taken to protect them. The crime took place with shocking simplicity.

The host state, unashamedly ignoring its national pride, let the two hirelings killers shed the blood of the chairman of an international conference held on its territory. It then allowed the killers to take its guests to an unknown fate on an airliner prepared by it for the culprits under the banner of protecting the lives of the hostages. It was as if the host state realized in advance that it was bidding the hostages farewell to go on a picnic at an unknown destination.

MENA's political editor explains that the nature of the crime and the identity of its perpetrators became clear a few momments after its implementation. He says: In such terrorist operations committed by extremist individuals or organizations, the criminals usually demand a ransom for the hostages or make a political demand indicating that they have a homeland or cause. In the Cyprus crime, the only demand was to secure a plane in order to leave the scene of the crime and go to one of the rejectionist states. This demand was naturally approved. The hostages were taken as a mere cover to implement the demand. The refusal of the rejectionist states--Algeria, Tripoli and Aden--to accept them, thus providing justification for their return to Cyprus to be tried there, was natural since anyone involved in the crime at some stage is eager to conceal the traces of it.

In the beginning Egypt imagined that the operation was an ordinary hijacking by terrorists on the model of what happened in Entebbe and Mogadiscio. Egypt prepared the necessary force to bring this operation to an end, considering that Cyprus was a friendly state interested, just like Egypt, in liberating the hostages. Egypt did not realize that Cyprus was involved in the plot and that Cyprus had to use all its armed forces to prevent a small force from arresting the culprits after freeing the hostages.

If Egypt had known that Cyprus was involved, it would not have carried out the operation as it did, whereby the plane landed quietly and with the permission of the Cyprus authorities at Larnaca airport. Egypt did not occupy the airport and did not kill everyone standing in its way as happened during the Entebbe operation.

The entire world followed the arrival of the Egyptian force to see what its objective was. The force waited for more than 90 minutes for permission from the Cyprus authorities to go into action. The force went into action when it realized that time was passing to the benefit of the culprits and that the Cyprus authorities were in an embarrassing situation, unable to give permission to the Egyptian commandos and act to realize the only aim of the two sides: to save the hostages and arrest the killers.

Everything became clear when the Egyptian force was at the peak of its completely successful operation. The Cyprus authorities became terrified lest the two mercenary killers be arrested. These authorities destroyed the plane which carried the Egyptian force and cut down the members of this force, with their heavy and light weapons, this friendly force of noble ends and unique courage in facing terrorism.

The Cyprus authorities used the pretext of national dignity. Two small killers had dragged this dignity in the mud. This dignity was only manifested when no one was even slightly wounded.

The MENA political editor goes on: The liberation of the hostages and the arrest of the killers, which was the main aim of the Larnaca airport operation, was carried out by the Egyptian commandos in the best manner.

Indeed, it was the first operation of its kind in which not one drop of blood--that of the hostages or the Egyptian commandos--was spilled. The second operation, which was the serious operation, began when the operation of liberating the hostages was at its peak. This serious operation was manifested in the confrontation of a state involved in an international plot to assassinate Yusuf as-Siba'i and which did not want Egypt, the state concerned with the plot, to lay its hands on the mercenary perpetrators of the plot.

It was obvious that it was impossible for a small force which had come to carry out a specific, limited task to confront the machinery of a state with all its heavy and light weapons, which it used to hit the plane which brought the force from behind and prevent the force from leaving the airport.

Egypt is proud of its men who had the honor of unveiling the true dimensions of this serious international conspiracy and the reality of the parties involved in it. We must draw the world's attention to the seriousness of this international conspiracy and to the fact that it should not amuse itself by drawing a naive comparison between the Larnaca operation, where the parties involved were responsible governments, and the Mogadiscio and Entebbe operations, where the perpetrators were ordinary individuals. In the Mogadiscio operation, the government concerned cooperated with the German commandoes to put down the terrorists. In Entebbe, Israeli forces occupied Entebbe airport from the first moment of the operation and destroyed all that stood in their way on the basis that it was operating on enemy territory.

This is the correct point of view. The only way to disprove it is for Cyprus to hand over the two killers to the only quarter concerned with revealing the conspiracy--Egypt. If Cyprus does this, it will remove the suspicions about it. What is certain, though, is that Cyprus wants to try the two criminals itself and thus lower the curtain finally on the international conspiracy, even if through the execution of the two hired killers.

Al-Jamasi Affirms Troops' Readiness

NC221428Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1405 GMT 22 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 22 February--Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of War and War Production Gen Muhammad al-Jamasi has affirmed that in the Cyprus operation Egypt demonstrated that it will always take a firm stand for Egypt, its dignity and honor. Al-Jamasi declared that the men of the shock and air forces who took part in this operation, like the rest of the members of the armed forces, pledge to President Anwar as-Sadat that they will always rise to the level of responsibility under all circumstances to defend the homeland, its dignity and honor. This was contained in the speech General al-Jamasi delivered at the beginning of the meeting which took place today between President Anwar as-Sadat and the heroes of the shock and air forces who took part in the Larnaca airport operation.

Al-Jamasi To Report to Assembly

NC231057Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 23 Feb 78 NC

[Text] The People's Assembly will hold a session on Monday morning to hear a statement by Gen Muhammad 'Abd al-Ghani al-Jamasi, deputy prime minister and war and war production minister, on the facts of the operation that took place in Cyprus.

The assembly will also discuss 10 applications submitted by the various political parties and independents for information about the circumstances in which martyr Yusuf as-Siba'i was assassinated and a number of the Egyptian shock force men were killed and others wounded at Larnaca airport in Cyprus.

Carter Message of Condolence

NC231100Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0958 GMT 23 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Washington, 23 February--U.S. President Jimmy Carter has sent a message of condolence to President Anwar as-Sadat in which he expresses regret for the losses sustained in the Larnaca airport incident. MENA has learned from well-informed sources that President Carter asked the Egyptian leader to convey his condolences to the families of those martyred during their humanitarian mission at Larnaca airport. In his message, the U.S. President also expressed his support for President as-Sadat's decision to send a shock force to free the hostages from the terrorists and said that those killed in the operations were martyrs of a noble cause.

Cairo Radio Commentary

NC221518Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 22 Feb 78 NC

['Abd al-'Azim Hammad commentary: "The Message of the Egyptian People to the Arab Nation and All Peoples in the World"]

[Text] The state and people of Egypt today saw their innocent sons--the martyrs of right and sublime humanitarian ordeals, victims of treachery, and denial of all values of loyalty and ethics of the international society--to their final resting place. As usual, the Egyptian people have proved that they are stronger than the ordeals and greater than trivialities. The Egyptian people have proved that they are faithful to their principles and resolved to safeguard their national dignity. They have proved that they are always prepared and capable of making sacrifices to uphold right, justice and peace and of fighting all forms of deviation from and rebellion against the rules and usages of civilized humanitarian societies.

The Egyptian people came out today to surround their martyred sons with glory and gratitude and to address a message to all civilized peoples. Everyone must understand the contents of this message and lesson well.

Our Egyptian masses came out to see their martyrs to their last abode and to tell the whole world that they are able to discriminate between an honest struggle for noble principles--for the sake of which all peoples have made sacrifices throughout mankind's history and for which sacrifices become easy--and cowardly treachery and stupid crime, which lacks even the least reason and which only rubs the face of honest struggle in the mud. In emphasizing their ability to discriminate between an honest struggle and crime, our Egyptian people, with a high sense of civilization, were decisive in their warning to the criminals and their allies that they would not tolerate their crimes from now on and that they would not allow the deviationists and those who trade with the issues of our nation to continue to indulge in their sins, causing the severest damage to the Arab people's march to regain their usurped rights and establish peace and justice in this area and throughout the world.

By bestowing this tremendous honor on their martyr sons and showing their reverence for them, the Egyptian people wanted to assert to everyone that, regardless of the sacrifices, they are prepared to continue their struggle to safeguard their dignity and punish all those who plot against them, all those who deny the Egyptian people's role and sacrifices, those who have turned into enemies of their nation and cause and who have placed themselves in the service of suspect plans, whether or not they were aware of the dimensions or have been the victims of trickery and deception.

It is certain that the Cyprus people have now realized the enormity of their government's action against the people of Egypt and their sons, who believed that they were going to a friendly land to fight a crime which the world unanimously condemned, as it has condemned all such crimes. After freeing the hostages and compelling the criminals to surrender, the sons of Egypt were surprised by the attack of the Cyprus forces, whose duty it was to help them. The Egyptians were treated as though they went to invade Cyprus and not to carry out a completely selfless and most noble humanitarian mission.

If they actually considered the Egyptian shock operation as a violation of their sovereignty, the Cyprus authorities should have dealt with the situation through diplomatic channels instead of resorting to the use of force from the first moment against those who never contemplated committing an aggression against Cyprus or against its sovereignty and who did not provoke or instigate the Cyprus forces in the least.

After all this, is it not our right to draw the attention of the Cyprus people to the fact that their government, which alleged that Egypt violated its sovereignty despite Egypt's notification that it wanted to help in the rescue of the hostages, had agreed to the use of a commando unit belonging to one of the quarters which opposed the surrender of the two terrorists to Egypt? Is it not our right to invite the Cyprus people to question their government about this inexplicable and uncordial attitude toward the Egyptian people, who contributed a great deal to the issue of liberating Cyprus and its territorial integrity?

We in Egypt warn all parties involved in this crime and draw the attention of the world to the fact that we will continue to fight and resist terrorism by all means and we will cooperate in this with the civilized people and with the quarters that consider it is their ethical responsibility to rid the world of this disease, which is about to cause confusion between what is right and false and distort man's most noble value--struggle for right and freedom. We are confident that only right will prevail in the end.

MENA: Cyprus Ambassador Weeps

NC2307382 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2304 GMT 22 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 22 February--The Cyprus ambassador in Cairo, Sotiriadhis, wept as he left the Foreign Ministry after being informed by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali of the decision to sever diplomatic relations between Egypt and Cyprus. The Cyprus ambassador asked the press not to photograph him and expressed his extreme sadness at leaving Egypt as a consequence of this sad incident in the history of Egyptian-Cyprus relations.

As-Sadat Awards Medals to Martyrs

NC230740Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2317 GMT 22 Feb 78 NC

[Excerpt] Cairo, 22 February--President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat has posthumously awarded the heroes of the shock forces and air force martyred at Larnaca airport the medal the Star of Sinai, the highest military medal, in appreciation of their unique heroism and courageous fighting. This was announced by Gen Muhammad 'Abd al-Ghani al-Jamasi, minister of war and war production, during his meeting today with the heroes of the shock forces and the air force who took part in the Larnaca airport operation.

AL-AKHBAR Criticizes Kiprianou

NC230824Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0645 GMT 23 Feb 78 NC

[From the press review]

[Text] Cairo, 23 February--The newspaper AL-AKHBAR says today that the world is awaiting an answer to a question which poses a severe challenge Kiprianou, that is, what will Kiprianou's behavior be regarding the criminal hirelings who murdered martyr Yusuf as-Siba'i? The paper wonders whether Kiprianou will hand over the criminals to the Egyptian authorities in response to the duty of right and justice or whether he will persist in conducting a sham trial, the aim of whichis known to the people before the trial is concluded.

The paper says that Kiprianou actually insists on not surrendering the criminals on the pretext of trying them in Cyprus to the advantage of those behind the crime, whose hands are stained with blood--a joint advantage for them and Kiprianou. AL-AKHBAR stresses that since the crime took place Kiprianou's behavior and moves have indicated that his whole aim was to let the criminals escape responsibility and punishment. The paper says that Kiprianou's behavior regarding the hireling criminals will expose him and his real attitude toward the abominable crime before the world.

Concluding its comment, AL-AKHBAR affirms tht EEgypt was right in withdrawing its recognition of Cyprus because it is not dignified or just to recognize a gang which has turned its country into a center of international terrorism.

Civil Rights Compensation Suit

NC230739Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2350 GMT 22 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 22 February--The newspaper AL-AHRAM reports on Thursday that its Board of Directors has decided to bring a civil rights compensation suit against the Cyprus Government for its grave negligence, which made it easier for the terrorists to commit their crime of murdering Yusuf as-Siba'i. The paper says that the family of As-Siba'i will file a similar suit and that AL-AHRAM has contacted an international lawyer to take the case.

AL-AHRAM Commentary

NC230913Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0610 GMT 23 Feb 78 NC

[From the press review]

[Text] The main subjects of comment in today's newspapers continue to be the assassination of the writer and litterateur, the late Yusuf as-Sibai, by two Palestinian terrorists in Cyprus and the stand adopted by Cyprus President Kiprianou and the Cyprus officials toward the Egyptian shock troops as they were carrying out their daring, humanitarian duty to release the hostages and arrest the criminal assassins. The newspapers condemn this treacherous behavior against the Egyptian shock force men and ask whether there is any collusion between the Cyprus Government officials and the sides that are interested in protecting the terrorists and in preventing them from falling into the hands of justice.

Commenting on this subject, AL-AHRAM refers to the ties of friendship and neighborliness that have bound the Egyptian and the Cypriot people together for a long time. It says that perhaps none of the nations around Cyprus or neighboring it has had as much connection with the history of the Cyprus struggle as the Egyptian people. Egypt stood at the side of the Cypriot people in their struggle under their late President Archbishop Makarios and was in solidarity with him during the ordeal of the abortive military coup to which the island was subjected. It received him and honored him as an honest struggler after his return from exile. It then defended the unity and sovereignty of the Cyprus people when they were exposed to Turkish invasion and the island was subjected to partition and division.

The paper continues its commentary by saying: Egypt's support of Cyprus was not limited to the popular level but extended to the governmental, official and diplomatic levels as well during the struggles the small island has waged and continues to wage. Therefore, the shock Egypt received and the disappointment of its people were great when the Cyprus Government officials behaved in such a treacherous manner against the Egyptian shock force men.

After emphasizing that the shedding of Egyptian blood on the soil of the island by its soldiers is a disgrace that cannot be justified by excuses of Cyprus sovereignty or lack of prior permission, AL-AHRAM says that there were no doubts about the intentions of the Egyptian shock force men, since they were pursuing and resisting international terrorism.

The paper then asks: Is there collusion between the Cyprus Government officials and other sides who are interested in protecting the terrorists and preventing them from falling into the hands of justice? Or were some Cyprus officials enticed with money by sides involved in international terrorism into turning a blind eye to the facts and opening fire treacherously? AL-AHRAM concludes its commentary: These are questions which must have answers. History will eventually reveal the facts of this ugly massacre committed on the land of Cyprus.

MINISTER OF STATE MEETS WITH U.S. AMBASSADOR

NC231343Y Cairo MENA in Arabic at 1327 GMT on 23 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 23 February--Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, met this afternoon with U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Herman Eilts, who asked to be briefed on the latest developments in the crisis between Egypt and Cyprus. The meeting between Ghali and Eilts also dealt with the latest developments in the Horn of Africa, the situation in the Middle East and relations between Egypt and the United States.

AS-SADAT RECEIVES U.S. AMBASSADOR IN CAIRO

NC230726Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2303 GMT 22 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 22 February--President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat today received U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Hermann Eilts. The meeting took place at the armed forces general headquarters following the funeral of the shock forces martyrs who fell at Larnaca airport in Cyprus.

GREECE TRYING TO MEDIATE BETWEEN EGYPT, CYPRUS

NC222018Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 22 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali this evening met with the Greek ambassador in Cairo. Dr Butrus Ghali stated that this meeting is within the framework of the attempts Greece is making to mediate between Egypt and Cyprus to find a solution to the problem between them.

FOREIGN MINISTER RETURNS FROM VISIT TO GERMANY

NC230737Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2330 GMT 22 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 22 February--Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil returned to Cairo from Frankfurt tonight after a 1-week visit to West Germany. The foreign minister said on arrival that he will submit a report to President as-Sadat on his visit to West Germany. He added that during the visit he met with FRG Chancellor Helmut Schmidt and Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher and discussed the developments in the Middle East crisis with them. The foreign minister said he will meet tomorrow with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Alfred Atherton, who arrived in Cairo earlier today, to learn the outcome of his talks in Israel.

EGYPT TO BUY U.S. ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS

NC230736Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2352 GMT 22 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 22 February--The newspaper AL-AHRAM reports on Thursday that the United States has decided to permit Egypt to buy 1,500 armored personnel carriers of the APC type and 1,500 other carriers of the M-113 type. The paper says that the final details of the deal will be discussed during the forthcoming visit to the United States of Deputy Prime Minister and War Minister Gen Muhammad al-Jamasi. This visit is at the invitation of U.S. Secretary of Defense Harold Brown. The paper says that no date has been fixed for the visit but it is likely to take place in March or May.

AL-AHRAM EDITOR CRITICIZES BREZHNEV SPEECH

NC230840Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0610 GMT 23 Feb 78 NC

[From the press review]

[Text] In his commentary today AL-AHRAM chief editor 'Ali Hamdi al-Jammal deals with the speech which Soviet President Brezhnev delivered at a reception held in honor of Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad in which he said that the peace initiative represents a danger to the Arab interests. The writer says that such statements by the Soviet president are a clear fallacy and an explanation that completely contradicts the Soviet policy in the area. 'Ali Hamdi al-Jammal then asks the following questions:

Who was it that signed a joint Soviet-U.S. statement in 1972 calling for military relaxation in the area? Who was it that refused to furnish Egypt with arms agreed upon and promised to Cairo more than once? Who was it that refused to compensate Egypt for the weapons it lost during the October war and to supply it with the necessary spare parts and asked the Indian Government not to respond to Egypt's request to New Delhi to furnish it with spare parts? Who is it that emphasizes in all joint statements it signs the need to preserve the security of the states in the area and their sovereignty over their territory, including Israel? Who was it that signed the joint Soviet-U.S. statement issued on 1 October last year, completely disregarded the PLO and insisted on the implementation of Resolution 242, which the PLO rejects?

The writer goes on to review the Soviet Union's attitude toward Egypt in the wake of the 1973 war. He says: The Soviet Union has withheld arms to Egypt while giving them in profusion to Syria and Libya. Why? The only explanation to this--though it needs no explanation--is that Moscow is aware that Egypt is the only country capable of waging the battle and that no matter how much weaponry the Syrians and Libyans have, these arms will be mere inanimate steel. Therefore, the Soviet politicians feel assured that such arms will not be used against Israel or be directed against them but that the weapons in the hands of Egypt have a different meaning. Despite this exposed stand, Brezhnev attacks the peace initiative.

After reviewing the Soviet Union's stands regarding Egypt and the PLO, 'Ali Hamdi al-Jammal goes on to explain its present attitude and view with regard to the Arab and African states. He asks the following questions: What are the Soviet forces now doing in Ethiopia? They are participating in an exceedingly fierce battle against the armed forces of Somalia, which is an Arab state. If we add to this the fact that Israel, through its prime minister and foreign minister, has declared that it is supplying Ethiopia with arms, does this not mean that the Soviet Union is participating with Israel in a battle against an Arab state, a member of the Arab League?

'Ali Hamdi al-Jammal then asks: Why did the Soviet Union abandon Somalia, where it was in control of all the country's resources and in which it had military bases, and move to fight the new enemy of Somalia? Are these the principles of the Soviet Union--to move its forces, advisers and experts from one side of the border to the other in order to fight against a state which the Soviet Union was, until recently, boasting of defending and protecting?

The writer then expresses surprise that Brezhnev, after all these stands, finds the courage to say that the peace initiative represents a danger to Arab interests when it is he who, by his policy, constitutes the greatest danger to Arab interests because he is seeking to turn them [as heard] into spheres of influence and, from then, fight every state that is proud of its national dignity and adheres to its will and its capacity for independent decision.

AS-SADAT RECEIVES CHAIRMAN OF CHASE MANHATTAN BANK

NC211822Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1755 GMT 21 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Ismailia, 21 February--President Anwar as-Sadat this evening received the chairman of the U.S. Chase Manhattan Bank, David Rockefeller, who is currently visiting Egypt. During the meeting, the bank chairman expressed to President as-Sadat the bank's willingness to contribute to food security projects in Egypt.

INDUSTRY MINISTER LEAVES FOR PEOPLE'S CHINA

NC2221547 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 22 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Industry, Petroleum and Mining Minister Engineer Ahmad 'Izz ad-Din Hilal left Cairo for China this evening for a 10-day visit. He said before leaving that the visit is in response to an invitation by the Chinese Government. He added that during the visit, the Egyptian delegation will familiarize itself with the various facets of the petroleum industry in China and will explore the possibility of cooperation in this field. Concluding his statement Engineer Hilal said that during the discussions with Chinese officials, the Egyptian delegation will concentrate on small industries, which could be of benefit in Egyptian villages.

AL-AKHBAR CRITICIZES ISRAELI PROTESTS ON U.S. ARMS

LD1721577 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 16 Feb 78 p 6 LD

[Article: "Military Balance Serves Peace Battle"]

[Text] The fabricated uproar Israel has created over the sale of 50 F-5 fighters to Egypt is typical of Israel's traditional propaganda, which is based on fooling world opinion, and U.S. public opinion in particular, under the pretext of fear for Israel's security and existence if the Arabs possess U.S. arms.

Although the U.S. President's approval of the sale of 50 F-5 fighters to Egypt was at the same time linked to the sale of 90 F-15 and F-16 planes to Israel--in addition to the modern planes that Israel already has--the Israeli political and military leaders hastened to declare their fear that supplying Egypt with these planes might disturb the balance of arms in the area in favor of the Arabs and consequently endanger the security of Israel.

The slogan of Israeli security has become like an undefinable unbrella covering objectives that are far removed from the concept of real peace. Indeed, this slogan is like a maze of dark alleways into which Israel wants to push the battle of peace after having blocked every outlet with a sign saying: no exit for the sake of Israeli security.

According to the Israeli concept, everything threatens Israeli security: the Palestine problem, the removal of settlements and supplying Egypt with arms that are not advanced compared with what Israel has. Even the UN resolutions are accused of being a threat to Israeli security.

Under the umbrella of this security, Israeli plans are gradually moving toward their objectives, beginning with con rolling southern Lebanon and ending with imposing settlements on the territory of others by force, as well as insisting on depriving Egypt of modern weapons so that Israel will remain the biggest military power in the area.

Such an attitude cannot possibly reflect a real desire for peace. The most fundamental principles of international relations establish that real peace in the Middle East must be based on military balance between the countries of the area. Also, the experience of negotiations with Israel and the campaign of Israeli statements have proved that the Israeli negotiator talks while relyirg on a military garrison and wants the peace that emanates from this garrison to draw the new Israeli map for the Middle East.

AS-SADAT CABLES GOOD WISHES TO AMIR OF QATAR

NC211442Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1311 GMT 21 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 21 February--President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat has sent the following congratulatory cable to Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, the amir of Qatar, on the anniversary of his accession to power:

It pleases me to take the happy occasion of the anniversary of your accession to power in fraternal Qatar to convey to you, on behalf of the people of the Arab Republic of Egypt and on my own behalf, heartfelt congratulations and good wishes. It pleases me on this happy anniversary to praise your achievements for the good of a fraternal country in the various fields and your positive contribution toward consolidating Arab solidarity in the interest of our fateful cause. With my sincerest regards to you dear brother, I wish Your Highness good health and happiness and glory and prosperity for the fraternal people of Qatar under your wise leadership. With my esteem, respect and fraternal appreciation.

Vice President Muhammad Husni Mubarak sent a similar congratulatory cable to his highness on this occasion.

EGYPT, FRANCE SIGN MAJOR TRADE AGREEMENT

LD221316Y Cairo Al-AHRAM in Arabic 17 Feb 78 p 1 LD

[Text] An AL-AHRAM correspondent has learned that an agreement has been reached between Egypt and France on the largest volume of trade and economic exchange between the two countries. The amount of expenditure involved totals 1 billion francs. The agreement is divided into two parts:

The first consists of 480 million francs for the current year compared with 380 million francs last year. The amount will be used to finance the purchase of passenger cars, locomotives and electrical signals for the Hulwan subway line and the building of elevated bridges in the congested areas of Cairo. Part of the loan will be used for the supply of power generators and equipment for the radio and television, the development of Cairo airport, and the building of new telephone exchanges in the provinces. A total of 125 million francs of this loan will be repaid over 25 years after a 5-year period of grace and the rest will be repaid over 10 years after a 5-year period of grace at an interest of 5.5 percent.

The second part consists of 520 million francs of credit facilities which will be allocated for financing joint Egyptian-French projects, the expansion of the textiles industry, the importation of railroad equipment and building material as well as an aerial survey and planning of the Red Sea area.

This credit will be repaid over 10 years.

VICE PRESIDENT MUBARAK TO VISIT MOROCCO

NC210622Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0015 GMT 20 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 20 February--AL-AHRAM reports in its issue Tuesday that Vice President Husni Mubarak will go to Rabat Tuesday to meet with King Hassan II. The paper adds that Husni Mubarak's visit will last 3 days and that its aim is to give King Hassan II a complete picture of the results of President Anwar as-Sadat's visit to the United States and European states.

SADDAM HUSAYN RECEIVES BULGARIAN OFFICIAL

JN222052Y Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 22 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Comrade Saddam Husayn, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and Revolution Command Council [RCC] vice chairman, received in his office at the National Command this evening Comrade Ivan Prumov, secretary of the Bulgarian Communist Party [BCP] Central Committee.

Comrade Prumov conveyed the greetings of Todor Zhivkov, BCP first secretary and chairman of the State Council, to Comrade Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr, deputy secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and president of the republic, and to Comrade Saddam Husayn. Prumov also conveyed Zhivkov's wish for further cooperation between the two friendly countries.

Comrade Saddam Husayn requested Prumov to convey his greetings and best wishes to Comrade Zhivkov. Afterward, the two sides discussed the friendly relations betweeen the two countries and the means to develop them in the service of the two countries and their peoples.

The meeting was attended by Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of agriculture and agrarian reform, and the Bulgarian ambassador in Baghdad.

YUGOSLAV DELEGATION ARRIVES IN BAGHDAD ON VISIT

JN231005Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1000 GMT 23 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 23 February--A Yugoslav delegation led by Nikola Kmezic, president of the Executive Council of Vojvodina Province, arrived here this noon. During its 4-day visit the delegation will hold talks with officials in the agricultural sector on developing cooperation between the two countries in this field.

SOMALI EDUCATION MINISTER ARRIVES IN BAGHDAD

JN222155Y Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 22 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Omar Arteh Ghalib, member of the Central Committee of the Revolutionary and Socialist Party and Somali minister of culture and higher education, arrived in Baghdad this evening leading a delegation on a visit of several days to Iraq.

In a statement to INA, Ghalib stated that his visit is within the framework of cooperation and coordination between the two friendly countries. He further stated that he will discuss with Iraqi officials bilateral relations, as well as the current Arab and international situation, particularly what is happening now in the Horn of Africa.

The delegation was welcomed at the airport by 'Adnan Husayn, RCC member and minister of planning, and the Somali ambassador in Baghdad.

SOMALI-IRAQI REFINERY TO BE INAUGURATED IN APRIL

JN221250Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1230 GMT 22 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 22 February--A meeting will be held in Mogadiscio by the board of directors of the joint Iraqi-Somali refinery [no date given]. The board will discuss a number of matters connected with the management and running of the refinery and with preparations for its inauguration on 7 April. The board consists of six members, three Iraqis and three Somalis.

Iraq is financing and constructing the refinery, which will have a daily output of 10,000 barrels of oil products.

FINANCE MINISTER RETURNS FROM TUNIS, MAKES STATEMENT

JN230756Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0730 GMT 23 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 23 February--Finance Minister Dr Fawzi 'Abdallah returned here last night after heading the Iraqi delegation to the meetings of the 24th session of the Arab Economic Council of the Arab League, held in Tunis last Monday.

In a statement to the press following his arrival, Dr 'Abdallah said that the resolutions adopted by the council were positive. He said these resolutions will contribute to giving momentum to the joint Arab economic action toward further cohesion and cooperation in order to achieve economic integration, particularly as regards facilitating the flow of Arab financial resources to the Arab area instead of investing them abroad.

Dr 'Abdallah pointed out that the Iraqi delegation played an effective role in guiding the talks in a constructive manner with the aim of drawing up a clear strategy for joint Arab action in the next phase and working to draft a working paper in this connection. The working paper will be submitted to an Arab economic summit conference.

Dr 'Abdallah said that the council's General Secretariat was requested to draft a unified Arab agreement to regulate Arab investments and to make them go along with the basic economic transformations currently being witnessed by the Arab area and the whole world. He said the council's General Secretariat was also requested to draft a new trade agreement among the Arab countries to facilitate and increase the volume of trade among them.

IRRIGATION DELEGATION LEAVES FOR VISIT TO PRC

JN230758Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0740 GMT 23 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 23 February--A delegation from the Irrigation Ministry led by Director General of Management and Finance Hashim Jasim Hammadi left Baghdad at dawn today on a 2-week visit to the PRC. Hammadi said that the delegation will acquaint itself with irrigation, dams, drainage and reservoir projects in the PRC and the methods used in agriculture, particularly rice cultivation. He also said that the delegation will hold talks with PRC officials on the exchange of expertise and bilateral cooperation in this field.

COMMUNICATIONS DELEGATION LEAVES FOR WARSAW

JN230831Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0820 GMT 23 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 23 February--A delegation from the Ministry of Communications led by Director General Nabhan 'Abd al-Majid Ahmad left for Warsaw this morning on a visit of several days to Poland. Ahmad said that the delegation will hold talks with officials there on following up implementation of the protocol concluded between the two countries in March concerning cooperation in the field of networks and construction. The delegation will also get acquainted with the Polish postal service as well as the training of Iraqi cadres in Polish institutes.

PRESIDENT AL-BAKR SWEARS IN TWO NEW MINISTERS

JN231055Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1040 GMT 23 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 23 February--Muhammad 'Ayish, RCC member and minister of industry and minerals; and Khalid 'Abd 'Uthman, minister of state for coordinating activities in the autonomous area, were sworn in this morning before President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr in the Republican Palace. Attending the ceremony was Hisham Ibrahim, chairman of the presidential office.

A republican decree was issued here 2 days ago appointing 'Ayish as minister of industry and minerals and Khalid 'Abd 'Uthman as minister of state for coordinating activities in the autonomous area.

EGYPTIAN WRITERS IN EXILE TO FORM LEAGUE

JN221239Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1215 GMT 22 Feb 78 JN

[Text] The Egyptian writers and men of letters working outside Egypt have decided to form a league.

The preparatory committee of this league last night held a meeting and discussed the league's statutes. The conferees then decided to hold another meeting on Saturday to elect the constituent committee. The coming meeting will also select a committee to prepare for the general conference of the league and to announce the statutes.

It is well known that a large number of Egyptian journalists, writers and men of letters are now outside Egypt as a result of campaigns of repression and intimidation launched against them to prevent them from writing within Egypt.

BRIEFS

COOPERATION WITH HUNGARY--Baghdad, 21 February--A Hungarian delegation representing (Tonkram) Corporation and specializing in electric industries today concluded a 3-day visit to Iraq. During the visit, the Hungarian delegation had talks with several Iraqi officials. The two sides signed a protocol for developing cooperation between the two countries in the field of electric equipment production. [Baghdad INA in Arabic 0900 GMT 21 Feb 78 JN]

COOPERATION WITH KUWAIT--Baghdad, 21 February--Nada al-Husayn, director general of the General Directorate for Civil Aviation in Iraq, and his delegation today returned to Baghdad after a weeklong visit to Kuwait. During his visit, Al-Husayn signed an agreement with the Kuwaiti General Directorate for Civil Aviation, according to which flights between Baghdad and Kuwait will be increased to six instead of three flights weekly. Four will be nonstop flights from Baghdad to Kuwait and the other two will be to San'a' via Kuwait. [Baghdad INA in Arabic 0806 GMT 21 Feb 78 JN]

PAPERS COMMENT ON AL-ASAD'S TRIP, ATHERTON'S MISSION

JN220837Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 22 Feb 78 JN

[Press review]

[Excerpts] Speaking in its editorial about the visit of His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad to Moscow and his talks there, the newspaper AD-DUSTUR says: The official talks between His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev herald a good beginning. This was manifested in the two speeches exchanged between them yesterday. The speeches confirmed the identity of views of the Arab and Soviet sides toward Arab issues, including the need for the full Israeli withdrawal from all the Arab areas occupied in 1967, enabling the Palestinian people to exercise the right of self-determination of their land. AD-DUSTUR adds: The talks which President al-Asad is having in Moscow are national talks. Every success achieved by these talks is a success for all the Arabs and their one cause. Therefore, the Arabs pin great hopes on the results of these talks, and these hopes are based on the firm conviction that His Excellency President al-Asad is working for the sake of the Arab cause and for the good of all the Arabs.

Speaking about Atherton's new mission in the Middle East and the anticipated results, AR-RA'Y says: Alfred Atherton, the roving ambassador in the Middle East, is probably right in not making any statements following his 2-hour meeting with Moshe Dayan, as the members of the Israeli Cabinet themselves have not yet agreed on a definite stand toward the problem of settlements. Therefore, it is difficult to see how or when they will be able to agree on the question of withdrawal from the occupied Arab areas or recognizing the legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arab people--the two Arab conditions for establishing just and durable peace in the area.

AR-RA'Y adds: Some observers believe that Atherton's shuttle mission between Egypt and Israel might not achieve any results, whether positive or negative, before Carter meets with Begin next month. In this meeting Israel's stand toward several crucial issues will be defined. And this in turn will either help Atherton to draft a specific formula for the declaration of the principles of a settlement or might prompt him to return to Washington without being able to achieve anything. AR-RA'Y adds: Despite the wave of pessimism prevailing in Israeli circles, the United States seems to have decided to try to achieve some progress to further the momentum toward the negotiations, even it it is difficult to reach a declaration of principles which might help expand the base of negotiations through the participation of other sides at the appropriate time.

HUSAYN PESSIMISTIC REGARDING AS-SADAT INITIATIVE

LD211057Y London THE GUARDIAN in English 21 Feb 78 p 7 LD

[Article from John Palmer in Amman: "Husayn Believes Peace Talks Have Failed"]

[Text] King Husayn and the Jordanian Government now believe that President as-Sadat's peace initiative has failed and that there is no prospect of Jordan joining the talks between Egypt and Israel. King Husayn is pessimistic about the immediate outlook in the Middle East and fears that radical anti-Western forces may gain ground in a number of Arab countries soon.

The king and the Hashemite establishment in Jordan are deeply disappointed at the reluctance of the United States to put effective pressure on Israel to make a peace settlement issued by the United States and the other NATO powers, at least implicitly condemning Israel's stance, which would restore Jordanian faith in the West's role as a peace arbitrator. This was made clear by the Jordanian minister of information, Mr 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah, who told me that "when As-Sadat went to Jerusalem we were hopeful that for the first time there might be a chance of peace, even though we were cautious because we understood Zionism. But the Israelis have shown that they are not interested in a serious negotiation.

"The king said that he would only join the talks if the circumstances were right, meaning that there was evidence that the Israelis were actually committed to the principles of (Security Council) Resolution 242. But they have shown they are not." Even so, the Jordanian Government is still reluctant to assume that the Palestinian people, in this context, should automatically be represented by the PLO.

Mr Abu 'Awdah said that the United States and Western Europe had to put some "real muscle and some real pressure" on Israel quickly. "You in the West should not try to play us in an evasive way with your statements." The minister added that any new Western declaration on the Middle East would have to include at least some implicit warning to Israel of the dangers to peace in the area because of the present stand.

The Jordanians, it seems, will place much significance on the outcome of the U.S. decision to supply arms to Egypt and Israel. "This provides the ultimate test of whether Mr Carter is really prepared to stand up to the Zionist lobby in the United States," said one leading Jordanian journalist.

The Jordanians seem to accept, almost fatalistically, that the outcome of the As-Sadat-Begin episode will strengthen the hand of Arab radicals, particularly those opposed to any closer relations between the Arab states.

The pro-Hashemite politicians in Jordan express nervousness about the political prospects facing the so-called "moderates" in the Arab camp. At first, this seems strangely at odds with the apparent strength and stability of the Jordanian regime itself. The pace of the economy and the undeniable growth in living standards have helped muzzle radical political opposition, though the improvement in the economy has helped sharpen social differences, particularly in the towns. Some observers wonder what will happen if the rate of recovery begins to flag. A significant section of Jordanian middle-class is tired of the "Palestinian problem" and, in spite of the residual political claims to sovereignty on the West Bank of the monarchy, would be happy to cut the links between the East and West Banks of the Jordan.

"The only Palestinians who will go to a Palestinian West Bank would be the unsuccessful ones," according to an East Bank industrialist. "Most of the settled Palestinians will stay on this side with their businesses, where they can invest their money." It is just such a prospect of a poor, radical, economically rootless West Bank state on their doorstep that gives sleepless nights to the government and its supporters.

Many Jordanians believe it would be no bad thing if the search for peace with Israel takes longer and were to allow Jordan to work out the basis of an acceptable relationship with any future Palestinian administration.

AUSTRALIAN TRADE UNION LEADER ARRIVES FOR TALKS

JN212115Y Amman JNA in Arabic 1510 GMT 21 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Amman, 21 February--Robert Hawke, president of the Australian Council of Trade Unions, arrived in Amman today on a 3-day official visit to Jodan. Hawke will hold talks with officials on labor and trade union affairs between the two countries.

Received by Crown Prince

JN212116Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 21 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Crown Prince Hasan the regent has declared that Israel cannot have both peace and territory and must show its good intentions through its complete withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, including Arab Jerusalem. His highness said this when he received Robert Hawke, president of the Australian Council of Trade Unions, who is now visiting Jordan. His highness said that the Israeli policy of settlements is rejected by the world community because it reveals the Israeli aggressive policy in the occupied territories.

His highness also spoke about the science and technology conference being held in Amman and said that Jordan has achieved one of the highest growth rates in the world. This has been acknowledged, he said, by the United Nations and the World Bank.

In a statement to JNA, Mr Hawke said that despite its limited resources, Jordan has achieved a high growth rate because of its sound economic policy.

Meets With Information Minister

JN222113Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 22 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Information Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah received in his office today Robert Hawke, president of the Australian Labor Party and president of the Australian Council of Trade Unions. The minister outlined to the Australian guest Jordan's stand regarding the Middle East crisis and the efforts being exerted to achieve a peaceful settlement in the area. He also explained Israel's stand regarding these efforts and the various dimensions of this stand, particularly those which are impeding the peace efforts and the possibilities of reaching a peaceful settlement. He further outlined Jordan's position regarding this stand. This stand is essentially based on the formula of bartering peace for land within the framework of resolutions passed by the various UN bodies.

The minister focused on the importance of the Palestinian dimension to the Middle East crisis. He affirmed the necessity of the Palestinian people's participation in creating a just and lasting peace. He also stressed the need for the Palestinian people to realize their identity on their soil, proceeding from their legitimate national rights.

KING HUSAYN, PRIME MINISTER CALLAGHAN HOLD TALKS

JN230620Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 23 Feb 78 JN

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn had talks in the British capital last night with British Prime Minister James Callaghan. The talks dealt with the latest developments in the Middle East situation and relations between Jordan and Britain. Afterwards, Prime Minister Callaghan gave a banquet in honor of His Majesty King Husayn. High-ranking officials of the British Government attended the banquet.

FOREIGN MINISTER BUTRUS MEETS U.S. AMBASSADOR

NC2114322 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 21 Feb 78 NC

[Text] On the diplomatic front the Minister of Foreign and Expatriates Affairs and Defense Fu'ad Butrus today continued his consultations with the ambassadors of major powers and friendly countries on developments in the situation in Lebanon. For this purpose he met at 0930 with U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon Richard Parker. The meeting lasted for 1 full hour, during which Butrus reviewed the latest events in Lebanon with the U.S. ambassador.

At the conclusion of the meeting, in a dialog between the journalists and Ambassador Parker, the ambassador was asked: What were the subjects which you discussed with the foreign minister? The ambassador replied: We conducted an extensive review which included everything and all subjects. Ambassador Parker was asked: It has been observed that your visits to Butrus' palace have decreased unusually lately. Is there any explanation for this? The ambassador replied: Minister Butrus was staying in B'abda Palace, and I was in daily telephone contact with him. Therefore, there was no need for me to visit Butrus' palace.

Regarding the events he was asked: Have they entered their final stage and are they over or are there any fears of a renewal? The ambassador answered: God willing, we hope that they are over, particularly since 3 or 4 days have passed without any incidents. Ambassador Parker was asked: Some newspapers have lately reported a statement attributed to U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance to some Lebanese and Arab journalists that the United States was surprised by the fact that Lebanon did not contact it during the crisis. How do you explain this? Ambassador Parker replied: What was reported in a certain paper last Saturday was not 100 percent correct. The fact is that what was reported on Sunday is the truth; namely, continuous contacts have been going on between us and the Lebanese Government during which we were briefed on its position on the latest events. He added that no astonishment was expressed by the U.S. administration, and it seems that the paper's correspondent was not well acquainted with the subject.

On the subject of arms for Lebanon the U.S. ambassador said: I have no idea if there are arms consignments which will arrive shortly in Beirut. He added: A program exists which is in the process of being implemented.

AL-JUMAYYIL MEETS U.S. AMBASSADOR; STATEMENTS MADE

NC1819402 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 18 Feb 78 NC

[Text] On the diplomatic level, a 1-hour meeting took place today between Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil and U.S. Ambassador Richard Parker. After the meeting Al-Jumayyil said: We would like the United States and the Soviet Union, if they care about democracy and freedom, to help Lebanon in construction.

The U.S. ambassador said: I visited Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil. We discussed the country's situation from all aspects. Asked if he is optimistic about the situation, Ambassador Parker said: I hope for the best, God willing. Asked if the United States has given any specific guarantees to Lebanon to prevent a new outbreak of clashes, the ambassador said: How can the United States give guarantees in this sphere? We are trying to promote friendship between Lebanon and Syria and we also help the Lebanese Government. God willing, the results will be good.

NATIONAL LIBERAL PARTY OFFICIAL DENIES RUMORS

NC171245Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 17 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Dory Sham'un, secretary general of the National Liberal Party, today denied that the party had issued a statement last night about the movements by the Arab deterrent forces and alleged fears about the bojectives of these movements. Sham'un said the report did not originate from his office or the office of former President Camille Sham'un, and we, he said, are the only two authorized to speak for the party. Neither one of us had made such a statement, he said.

On his part, former President Camille Sham'un has expressed astonishment over the report. He asserted that he is exerting continuous efforts to clear the atmosphere following last week's incidents.

The report, which has been denied, had been carried by REUTER and AFP. It was soon picked up this morning by the British radio, the Israeli radio and the Monte Carlo radio, thus intensifying the war of biased rumors which some foreign information quarters have apparently decided to launch against Lebanon. Yesterday we warned the citizens against heeding such rumors.

FRANJIYAH CALLS FOR SUPPORTING DETERRENT FORCES

JN181414Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 1215 GMT 18 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 18 February--Former Lebanese President Sulayman Franjiyah has called on all the Lebanese to give very possible assistance to the Arab deterrent forces to enable them to carry out their tasks in the best possible manner. Franjiyah denounced the rumors and propaganda campaigns whose sources and suspect objectives are known. He called for working to support the fraternal Syrian initiative, which contributed greatly to foiling the plot against Lebanon--a plot which caused war in Lebanon for 2 years.

President Franjiyah called on the Lebanese to support the efforts and endeavors being made by President Sarkis to establish law and order and consolidate stability in the country. He also called on them not to heed biased rumors and to act with more awareness and vision. President Franjiyah called on Lebanese officials to be vigilant and to act firmly in controlling false news and sources which propagate false rumors, and to block the subversion carried out by certain foreign correspondents, particularly Monte Carlo radio, London radio and the radio of the Zionist enemy.

PRESIDENT SARKIS RECEIVES BA'TH PARTY LEADER

JN171644Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 17 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Beirut--Lebanese President Ilyas Sarkis met this morning with Comrade 'Asim Qansu, secretary of the Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party organization in Lebanon. They discussed several domestic questions of interest to fraternal Lebanon. Following the meeting, Comrade Qansu said that what is required at present is to contain the consequences and repercussions of the recent regrettable incidents and to restore the security situation to normal again so that the Arab deterrent forces can resume their natural role in Lebanon. Comrade Qansu in his statement called on all Lebanese politicians to support President Sarkis so that he can preserve Lebanon's unity and stability.

AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM CARRIES INTERVIEW WITH FOREIGN MINISTER

LD2217444Y Kuwait AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 21 Feb 78 pp 18, 19 LD

[Interview granted by Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam to AS-SIYASAH correspondents Yusuf al-Masa'id and Muhammad Yunis in Damascus--date unspecified]

[Text] [Question] How do you explain the recent events in Lebanon? What is Syria's view of the recent clashes there?

[Answer] There are elements that want to disturb security and had, in fact, provoked the Arab deterrent forces near Al-Fayyadiyah barracks. The Lebanese Government has decided to set up a joint Lebanese-Syrian military court to try all cases relating to threats to the security of the deterrent forces and Lebanese state. The Lebanese Chamber of Deputies has unanimously approved the setting up of this court.

[Question] Has investigation into the recent incidents actually begun?

[Answer] Yes. A Lebanese-Syrian investigation committee has been set up and the case will be referred to the joint court.

[Question] What if such incidents recur?

[Answer] There is an answer to every situation.

[Question] Do you regard what happened in Lebanon as the beginning of a battle against Syria?

[Answer] The area is facing difficult conditions. Serious efforts are being made to liquidate the Palestine problem and entrench the Zionist entity. All those working in this direction will exert every effort possible and will operate in different directions in order to create conditions that would help them implement the big plan in the area.

In any case, Lebanon, despite the gaps that exist in the Lebanon arena, does not constitute a factor of political pressure because the legitimate authority, represented in President Ilyas Sarkis, is determined to deal with all movements that aim at jeopardizing Lebanese security and stability. There is no doubt that the Arab deterrent forces will implement the Lebanese authorities' orders to wipe out any movement disturbing security.

[Question] Do you think that what happened confirms that the rebuilding of the Lebanese Army is being carried out on an unsound basis?

[Answer] The rebuilding of the Lebanese Army is without doubt a sensitive matter, and the recent events revealed many gaps. I do not wish to discuss this subject because, in fact, the matter concerns our brothers in Lebanon.

[Question] What is Syria's role in the reconciliation?

[Answer] Syria is continuing to exert every effort possible and to take any measures that would contribute to strengthening national unity and political conciliation as well as to consolidating the legitimate authority.

[Question] How does Syria view the outcome of the Algiers summit?

[Answer] By virtue of its national stand toward the Palestine problem and the major issues that concern the Arab nation, Syria is required to shoulder its share of national responsibility to face confrontation. I say its share because the conflict between us and Israel is not just a regional problem that concerns Syria alone but also a national responsibility that concerns the entire Arab nation. Therefore, the Algiers summit conference has urged the Arabs to contribute to the achievement of a strategic balance between Syria and the Israeli enemy. We in Syria do all we can to achieve this end.

[Question] Are contacts being held with the aim of making Iraq join the front of steadfastness and confrontation?

[Answer] The Algiers conference has left the door open to all the Arab countries that do not support the Egyptian president's initiative to join the front and work with it. The door will remain open if Iraq wishes because the Algiers summit has laid down a political and military basis for joint Arab action at this stage.

[Question] Will Jordan join the Egyptian-Israeli negotiations at a particular stage?

[Answer] So far Jordan has not taken part in these negotiations. We have ascertained from our brothers in Amman that Jordan will not change its stand. I do not think that Jordan will go back on its commitment to the Rabat resolutions. Our brothers in Jordan have assured us of this several times.

[Question] What is the best way to restore Arab solidarity? How and when will Syria meet and Egypt again?

[Answer] We support and strengthen solidarity, but we are against this solidarity if it is used to serve the Israeli enemy. We are with solidarity that aims at confronting occupation and aggression and supporting the national struggle of the Arab nation and the Palestinian people against the Zionist existence. But we do not consider bringing a few Arab countries together under the banner of President as-Sadat's visit to occupied Jerusalem as solidarity. Any Arab meeting under this visit or as a result of its outcome is not Arab solidarity and does not serve the objectives of the Arab nation. Therefore, Syria, on the basis of these principles, will not approve of any meeting that would include the Egyptian president, because under no circumstances will we provide a cover for the plot President as-Sadat is implementing. We will not participate in it and we will not let it pass.

[Question] What were the results of your recent visit to Kuwait and Saudi Arabia?

[Answer] My recent visit to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait fell within the current contacts between us and our Arab brothers, particularly after the Algiers summit. In fact its purpose was to brief officials of both countries of the outcome of the Algiers summit.

[Question] What was your impression there? What is the attitude of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia toward these developments?

[Answer] I can assure you that the Saudi and Kuwaiti attitudes have begun to clarify. Our brothers in both countries have assured us of their rejection of the Egyptian president's initiative and of Egypt's present policies. I would like to point out here that both Saudi Arabia and Kuwait adhere to the principle of total liberation of all occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem, and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state and giving the Palestinians all their legitimate rights, including the right to return.

[Question] Do you believe that Saudi Arabia and Kuwait will take an initiative or particular steps?

[Answer] I do not think that present conditions are suitable for such action but we do not know what will happen in the future.

[Question] What are the most important topics that President Hafiz al-Asad will discuss during his forthcoming visit to the Soviet Union?

[Answer] Everything that would serve our national interests and strengthen our stand in the conflict with the Zionist enemy.

[Question] What if Syria becomes the target of aggression?

[Answer] In any circumstances Syria will face any aggression with all its potential and capability and in a manner that will cost the enemy dearly.

[Question] What about Syrian-Palestinian relations?

[Answer] They are good, and continuously improve.

[Question] What is Syria's attitude toward the proposed self-rule?

[Answer] We are against this proposal because its ultimate aim is to make the West Bank and Gaza part of the Zionist entity. Briefly, it means surrendering to Israel what is left of Palestine. Self-rule is one thing and independence another.

I would like to point out here that Egypt approved the plan for self-rule, for the present conditions at least and on the basis that after a certain number of years there will be self-determination. Israel is constantly seeking to increase the Jewish population and bringing pressure to evict the Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza. Self-determination in the view of the Zionist entity means voluntarily giving up land to Israel after it has been seeded with Israeli settlements. Consequently, the enemy wants to bargain over Palestine--the whole of Palestine--in return for partial withdrawal from other Arab territories.

[Question] The Palestine problem has always been a Syrian problem and concern, more than of any other Arab party. What would be Syria's attitude if the self-rule plan were implemented? What solution does Syria want?

[Answer] Regardless of political considerations and dramatic developments, the Palestine problem has been through several stages that the Palestinian attitude has itself reflected. At the beginning the PLO put forward the proposal for a democratic secular state over all Palestinian soil. Then came the Rabat summit that proposed a phased solution for the problem, the solution that is now possible for our Palestinian brothers and for us as well. This solution lies in the Palestinian people's right to establish an independent national state and to return. No one can deny, ignore, or sidestep the national rights of the Palestinian Arabs. We believe that this phased solution at least preserves the essence of the cause of the Arabs. But the solutions being proposed now ignore the position and status of Palestinians outside the country. The proposed self-rule, for example concerns only the inhabitants of the West Bank and Gaza but ignores the problem of more than 2 million Palestinians abroad.

[Question] There are some who talk about Armenianization.

[Answer] There is a big difference. Armenianization is not considered at all. It must be noted, however, that Armenia has become a republic of the USSR.

[Question] It appears that the United States supports the self-rule plan, does it not?

[Answer] Of course, because in fact it aims at liquidating Palestine geographically and historically.

[Question] Does it also support resettlement?

[Answer] To a great extent. Resettlement or Armenianization is one way of liquidating the Palestinian problem entirely.

[Question] The Palestinians might be forced to it through pressure or by force.

[Answer] The PLO has become aware of the seriousness of this question and, therefore, has asserted its absolute rejection of this plan or any plan that aims at prejudicing the Palestinian people's rights. I would like to emphasize that Syria will strongly oppose any solutions which directly affect it and consequently affect Syria's national aspirations. Should it happen that the PLO makes concessions or is forced into acceptance under pressure, we will never accept either self-rule or resettlement. The problem first and foremost concerns Syria.

[Question] Could it be said in the light of what happened in the area recently that the doors to peace have been shut?

[Answer] The Egyptian president, Israel and the United States are working in a direction that does not lead to a just and honorable peace. Rather it will eventually lead to conceding to all or most of the Israeli's demands.

In our opinion the road President as-Sadat is following could lead to almost anything, but it will definitely not lead to a just and honorable peace. It has been noted that since As-Sadat's visit the Egyptian line has been fluctuating, contrary to the Israeli line which has remained fixed. Thus Egypt is being asked to continue this downward move so that it will meet with the Israeli line. This is what is actually going to happen.

[Question] Can we therefore, say: Goodbye Geneva?

[Answer] Any conference under the aegis of As-Sadat's visit and of military imbalance will be futile. Moreover, the Geneva conference is out of the question.

[Question] Syria was going to go to Geneva, despite the military imblance.

[Answer] Do you believe that the Geneva conference would have succeeded?

[Question] All the parties, the two superpowers and world opinion agreed on this.

[Answer] We know, and Israel realizes that peace cannot be achieved under the existing balance.

[Question] Therefore, peace is out of question, and what is required is to change the military balance. Will we reach such a state?

[Answer] We are constantly working to strengthen our military capabilities and we would welcome support from any side. The Soviet Union has given support to the Arabs in their struggle against aggression. As I said, we are trying to obtain the largest amount of support possible whether from the Soviet Union or the other sisterly countries.

[Question] France, for example?

[Answer] Why not?

[Question] It has recently been repeated that President as-Sadat's initiative has failed. What is the attitude you expect Egypt to adopt after this?

[Answer] Who told you that As-Sadat has failed? Outwardly he pretends to have failed. In both the United States and Israel he failed in certain things but the door is still open. In fact, the initiative has not failed because eventually As-Sadat will sign a unilateral peace agreement with Israel. What is required then is to normalize transactions with Israel and create a state of normal relations which will culminate in a formal agreement.

If we follow As-Sadat's meetings and his approach we can deduce many things, including the fact that in his meetings with Israeli officials As-Sadat was warmer than during his meeting with any Arab official. In the end he will accept the Israeli plan. Otherwise, what does his acceptance of 10,000 Egyptian Jews mean? This acceptance is a prelude to accepting settlements on this. The Egyptian Jews come within this agreement as part of the coverup for the question of settlements in Sinai. The whole operation needs camouflaging just as was the case of the Sinai agreement.

[Question] Pardon me, Mr Minister, Egypt signed the Sinai disengagement agreement and Syria created an uproar, but it later signed a similar agreement. Is this Syrian hard line a cover for reaching a compromise solution?

[Answer] We never resort to maneuvers. Let me restate the story of the Sinai agreement which is totally different from the Golan agreement.

[Question] Yes, of course, there is a difference between the two agreements: One is political and the other military. Is it not so?

[Answer] Exactly. Let us go to the past. In March 1975 Kissinger came. The Egyptian Foreign Ministry issued a statement affirming Egypt's adherence to the Rabat summit resolution, to the Arab nation's objectives and refusing any separate agreement. As-Sadat then issued a decision reopening the Suez Canal and this was followed by signing the Sinai agreement. Under the secret supplements of the agreement, Israel refused to sign the second disengagement agreement before Egypt had fulfilled its commitments under the first agreement, which included the passage of Israeli ships through the canal and Egypt's commitment not to resort to the use of force or to any warlike operations. This was what happened then. This was followed by the outbreak of incidents in Lebanon, one objective of which was to cover up this agreement. With regard to the Syrian agreement it is totally different from the Egyptian agreement, the Golan agreement came after 82 days of fighting. Moreover, this was a purely military agreement which involves no commitments, despite the fact that Kissinger and Israel tried to demand that Syria stop fedayeen operations and not encourage the resistance in such operations. President Hafiz al-Asad said then that such a demand is out of question for Syria.

What is important is that the Syrian agreement is considered a step toward the implementation of Resolution 338, which does not bind us to any military commitments. This is contrary to the Egyptian agreement which provides that "the Egyptian and Israel governments pledge to settle their differences through peaceful means and not to resort to the threat or use of force." This practically means ending the state of war. This also is what As-Sadat officially declared in the Knesset when he said that the October war was the end of all wars. What is important--which indeed is a regrettable fact--is that the Egyptian-Israeli agreement means the achievement of gains for Israel and a defeat for Egypt. We in Syria will never come to such a situation.

[Question] Several attempts are being made to create a substitute for the PLO. What is your attitude toward such attempts?

[Answer] I first want to point out that President as-Sadat dropped the PLO and no longer even mentions its name since he stood on the rostrum of the Israeli Knesset. This was part of the agreement.

The PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and will remain so. Those who are trying to create a substitute representative in no way represent the Palestinian people. According to our precise information, which is based on facts and evidence, the West Bank and Gaza unanimously support the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. This unanimity inside the country is matched by a unanimity outside it. If such is the attitude of those who are under the yoke of occupation how then should be the attitude of those living in tents?

Every day and on every occasion the masses in the occupied territories affirm their adherence to and support for the PLO despite all circumstance and despite pressures. We will continue to support the PLO until the objectives of the Palestinian people are achieved.

[Question] Suppose Israel offers to withdraw from the Golan in return for abandoning the Palestine problem. Will you accept?

[Answer] Never. We will not accept the Golan being the price for abandoning the Palestine problem. In 1975 a plan for the Golan was put to us that provided for much fewer concessions than those Egypt made in the Sinai agreement, but we refused the plan because its final aim was to abandon and isolate the Palestine problem. Palestine is to us like the Golan and we will not accept the Goland at the expense of Palestine.

[Question] Are there personal differences between you and President as-Sadat, particularly since he concentrates on you?

[Answer] Never. There are no personal differences. All that there is is that I understand As-Sadat more than anybody else and I know what he wants. This is frankly what it is and for this reason he appears to bear a grudge against me and always avoids me.

ALGERIA

BOUMEDIENE SPEAKS ON ALGERIAN GAS INDUSTRY

LD212352Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 21 Feb 78 ID

[Speech by Algerian President Houari Boumediene at inauguration ceremony of natural gas liquefaction plant and other industrial projects at Arzew Industrial Estate on 21 February --recorded]

[Excerpts] Brother citizens, it pleases me--in the name of the council of the revolution and the government and in your name--to warmly welcome and greet our esteemed guests and all Algeria's friends and those who cooperate with it, who have come from various parts of the world to enjoy with us these happy moments we are experiencing today in the Arzew Industrial Estate.

Today we are celebrating--in addition to the inauguration of Arzew's new oil and gas port --the beginning of the operation of two new combines, one producing liquified natural gas, the other producing methanol and other gas byproducts. At the same time we are celebrating the beginning of the construction of a second combine for the liquefaction of 10 billion cubic meters of natural gas every year.

If we are to take into consideration only the established quantity of hydrocarbons, not including the quantity to be added in the future by current exploration, it is possible to state now that the established reserve in our country will enable Algeria not only to meet its own needs in the field of energy and petrochemicals for several decades to come, but also to insure a high level of exportation of liquid and gas hydrocarbons for the purpose of finding means to create and develop fresh and constant revenue sources.

Consequently, the reserve we have and the increase in production constitute at the present stage a strategic goal. But despite this we must stress that, regardless of the importance of the reserve we have, it will inevitably be exhausted. Resorting to using our reserve for the purpose of doubling our income cannot be justified unless this income is used in a manner characterized by wisdom, austerity and effectiveness. It will consequently assist in the creation of fresh resources which will simultaneously produce other income sources which will safeguard the interests which we have to insure for future generations.

It is now 8 years since the signing of the trade contract connected with this project. Then it was intended for the first time in the history of the world hydrocarbons trade for industrial concerns to transport huge amounts of liquefied natural gas from Africa to America across the Atlantic. At that time many commentators looked upon that contract with mockery. Some of them saw it in an Algerian maneuver with the aim of influencing negotiations which were taking place at the same time with European consumers. Others assured those who were prepared to listen that Algeria did not have the commercial or industrial power nor the financial backing or commercial trust to operate alone and in a (?guaranteed) manner such an operation successfully.

Spokesmen of some economic and political circles tried to put it about that Algeria with its gas was throwing itself into the arms of U.S. capitalism, believing that they could influence us by distorting a process which was nothing more than a commercial deal.. Algeria was the seller.

Algeria, brothers, as everyone knows, does not and will not sell itself to anyone. It embarked on this deal fully aware of what was due to it in return for what it was giving.

As from now our country is committed to selling 56 billion cubic meters every year: 28 percent to the United States and 72 percent to Europe. In order to realize these sales we will see in the near future a fleet comprising more than 30 giant tankers of methane daily sailing the Mediterranean and the Atlantic to link the Algeria coast with the eastern coast of America and the Mediterranean and Atlantic European coasts. In addition to this, in less than 3 years the transcontinental gas pipeline will link for the first time in history the Mediterranean coasts in Algeria and Tunisia and the Sicilian Channel to take Algerian gas to Italy.

Our efforts in development make us create and double the ties with the countries which have the material and financial means to speed up the accomplishment of our development aims. In return we give them a portion of our land resources to resolve the energy problem.

LIBYA

LIBYAN, SUDANESE, CHADIAN, NIGER HEADS TO MEET

JN210833Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0820 GMT 21 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Tripoli, 21 February--Informed sources said here today that they expect a quadripartite meeting to be convened among the heads of state of the Libyan Jamahiriyah, Sudan, Chad and Niger in Sabha city near the Libyan-Chadian border tommorow, Wednesday. The four heads of state--Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, Ja'far Numayri, Felix Malloum and Seyni Kountche--will discuss the question of settling the Libyan-Chadian differences.

It was announced earlier that the meeting would be attended only by the Libyan and Chadian heads of state. However, the INA correspondent in Tripoli cited informed sources today confirming that Presidents Numayri and Kountche will attend the meeting. It was announced here yesterday that the fighting between the Chad rebels and government troops stopped yesterday.

MAURITANIA

POLISARIO STEPS UP ATTACKS ON ECONOMIC TARGETS

PA222315Y Paris AFP in English 2246 GMT 22 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Nouakchott, Feb 22 (AFP)--The Western Sahara Liberation Front POLISARIO appears to have adopted a strategy of night attacks in response to the recent French Air Force action in Mauritania. A series of night raids was begun 3 weeks ago and on Monday night a train was seriously damaged and several hundred yards of track destroyed between the port of Nouadhibou and the iron-mining centre Zouerate.

While officials here were trying to play down the incident, observers noted striking facts. First, POLISARIO units have resumed attacks on the railway which they temporarily suspended after French Jaguar aircraft based in S egal began carrying out sorties on behalf of Mauritania in December. Second, the front has not given up the strategy of venting its attacks on Mauritania's economic installations. The [word indistinct] find it almost impossible to pursue the guerrilla columns which generally storm out of the desert night, the lights of their vehicles extinguished.

Military authorities in the Saharan territory are believed to be pressing for intensified combined air and land reconnaissance operations, particularly in the north, where POLISARIO has logistic support bases. Observers here say that the attacks on the railway line show that POLISARIO has developed sabotage to a degree not previously seen in the 2-year guerrilla war. Military officials stress that it is [words indistinct] the front's mountain bases, some 300 kms north of the line, that the country's economic life-line between Zouerate and Nouadhibou can be protected.

MOROCCO

LE MATIN EDITOR REVIEWS RELATIONS WITH USSR

LD221631Y Casablanca LE MATIN in French 10 Feb 78 pp 1, 4 LD

[Ahmed Alaoui editorial: "Good Business Makes Good Friends--Moroccan-Soviet Relations"]

[Text] As soon as it achieved independence, Morocco demonstrated its desire for non-dependence and nonalinement by renewing its friendship with all sovereign, independent countries, from East and West, North and South, whatever their political regime or economic and social system. In this way our country stressed its universal vocation by establishing relations, without distinction or exception, with all the members of the international community. Morocco has given nonalinement its true meaning, since many countries can only conceive of nonalinement in relations to one bloc, not in relation to both. It is a fact that our country has professed friendship for the whole world and has never shown hostility to anyone.

In the disputes which have shaken world stability, Morocco has never taken sides with one party against the other. In particular, it has pursued a policy of entente and cooperation with the Soviet Union. Moreover, the USSR was one of the first countries with which we resumed diplomatic relations. Indeed, we already enjoyed relations with Russia before the protectorate was established, and one of the last Moroccan diplomatic missions went to St.Petersburg in 1900.

In those days our relations were purely diplomatic: Trade was difficult, and cooperation, in the current sense of the word, did not exist.

Since the restoration of diplomatic links our relations have been constantly strengthened, extended and broadened. We have exchanged numerous missions and received visits. Thus, three heads of state or government have paid official visits to Morocco: Mr Mikoyan (accompanying Mr Brezhnev), Mr Kosygin and Mr Podgorny. Similarly, His Majesty Hassan II paid an official visit to Moscow.

By this time the ground had already been prepared by the first trade agreement concluded in 1958, an agreement which has been regularly renewed and extended. During the king's visit to the USSR the first Moroccan-Soviet agreement on economic, scientific and technical cooperation was signed in the presence of the sovereign and Podgorny, Kosygin and Brezhnev. This agreement has enabled fruitful cooperation to be established between the two countries. The relationship has been marked by many achievements; we will cite in particular the Mansour El Dahbi Dam on the River Draa, which has a capacity of 560 million cubic meters and has made it possible to irrigate 18,000 hectares; the building of a 10-megawatt hydroelectric power station connected to the dam and the construction of a 200-km high-tension line across the Atlas Mountains. This complex was commissioned in May 1972.

In October 1968 work began on building the coal-fired power station at Jerada, which commenced production in 1972 and provides 30 percent of the country's electricity. In 1975 the Ait Aadel Dam hydroelectric power station was commissioned. These projects represent a total power output of 200 megawatts.

Technical cooperation has proved particularly effective in the field of geology. Soviet experts have carried out studies which have led to important discoveries, notably the location of a new cobalt deposit at Bou Azzer just as the old reserves were approaching exhaustion. Soviet experts have also carried out surveys on the bituminous schists at Timahdit and Tarfaya, with regard to both mining and processing them.

At present some 50 Soviet experts are working in Morocco on paleontological, metallogenic and geochemical research, in liaison with their Moroccan colleagues. They have made it possible to draw up a chart of useful minerals in Morocco, which forms the basis for a 1/100,000 metallogenic chart.

It is clear that Morocco enjoys truly friendly and fruitful relations with the USSR and that at the same time real cooperation has been introduced into numerous spheres.

This enabled His Majesty Hassan II to say in the press conference he held in November 1975:

"I have always wanted to preserve my friendship and good relations with the Soviet Union, since Moroccan-Soviet cooperation has always been cited as an example in African countries--and in truth we do have an exemplary form of cooperation and we are determined to preserve it, whatever the cost."

This cooperation has recently been reinforced still further by the signing of a fishing agreement; and in Moscow Karim Lamrani has just finished drafting an important agreement which will be signed in the Soviet capital by Prime Minister Ahmed Osman during the second half of this month.

It is concerned mainly with exploitation of the Meskala phosphate reserves, between Chichaoua and Essaouira.

During a solemn ceremony which took place in Moscow 26 January 1978 at the State Committee for Foreign Relations four Moroccan-Soviet agreements were concluded by Karim Lamrani:

1--A long-term agreement on Moroccan-Soviet economic and technical cooperation based on the phsophates;

2--A trade protocol between the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco and the Government of the USSR;

3--A specific agreement on trade over the period 1978-1980;

4--A specific protocol relating to the settlement of expenses entailed in the first stage of exploiting the Meskala phosphate reserves.

These agreements deal, on the one hand, with the construction of a phosphate industry complex in the Meskala area (Essaouira Province), at an estimated cost of nearly $2 billion and, on the other hand, with the trade in raw materials and products between the two countries over a 30-year period. At today's prices the overall approximate value of this trade exceeds $9 billion.

What are the features of these agreements?

They involve what Mr Brezhnev has called a compensation agreement.

The main point is that the 2 billion which the USSR is advancing for the Meskala project will be in the form of currency.

This is a major innovation in financial relations between the two countries since, let us emphasize, these are currency loans, no longer based on barter agreements. Morocco can therefore use these funds at its convenience, according to where its best interests lie. We are not dealing with tied aid since our country can purchase the equipment it needs at the best possible price.

This loan will enable us not only to set up the necessary infrastructure on the Meskala field but also to build the roads, lay the railroad and construct an entirely new port at Essaouira, which will become Morocco's fourth largest phosphate port after Casablanca, Safi and Jorf Lasfar. To improve the project's profitability and reliability, HM Hassan II has insisted that work begin immediately on building the port at Essaouira, so that it will be capable of handling the equipment necessary to begin exploitation of the Meskala field and will then be in a position to serve immediately as an outlet for exports.

The second aspect of the agreement recently concluded with the USSR is no less important. It covers a period of 30 years and fixes the volume of trade between the two countries at $4.5 billion in each direction; in other words, $9 billion in all.

Thus, Morocco will supply the USSR with 5 million tons of phosphates a year, as well as large quantities of phosphoric acid which will be produced by Maroc Phosphore's factories. Moreover, Soviet phosphate purchases may be increased to as much as 10 million tons a year.

In exchange we will buy from our partner oil, capital goods, finished products, fishing vessels and mineral transport ships.

But the main thing to note about this agreement is its length. It is planned for 30 years; so it is no longer a simple trade agreement or a cooperation agreement, it is a real association.

Moreover, this development is perfectly in step with the march of history. The cooperation agreement signed in Moscow is over 10 years old. During these 10 years cooperation between the two countries has been constantly intensified and extended. In 1968 the USSR became the marketing and export office's foremost customer for oranges. But today an entirely new phase of Moroccan-Soviet relations is opening up and Morocco is to become the USSR's leading partner in Africa.

The situation arising is a true example of symbiosis.

An organized form of cooperation extending over a very long period of time is being established between our two countries--cooperation which takes into account the interest of both parties and creates real trade interdependence.

It must also be said that, despite the disproportion in strength, our country is not in a position of weakness--on the contrary--and this is what gives the new era opening up in our relations its full significance.

Indeed, our country possesses 75 percent of the world's phosphate reserves (5 percent of them being the phosphates at Bou Craa). The United States has only 8 percent of these reserves, and the USSR 5 percent. The latter at present uses 15 million tons of phosphates--the figure for Moroccan phosphate production in 1977--and its agriculture which, as is well known, is not only economically but politically important, depends for its productivity on the fertilizers provided. The Soviet Union also has to supply the needs of its CEMA partners.

So, if it is to meet these vital needs, Morocco is obviously a precious, indispensable and irreplaceable partner for the USSR.

Once again we can gage the importance for our future of the bold, dynamic policy pursued by the phosphates office group which has worked in a constantly forward-looking spirit, never letting itself be trapped by shortsighted considerations. Indeed, thanks to this policy we are in a position to meet all market demands, whatever the economic situation, and the Soviet Union has concluded this contract with us--which His Majesty the king rightly described as the "contract of the century"--because it has total confidence in our country.

As we can see, Moroccan-Soviet cooperation, which has become increasingly extensive and better organized, is now entering a new era. Both partners see this affair as being in their interests, thanks to the mutual commitments which they have signed. Thus they have paved the way for a form of cooperation which is no longer contingent and occasional but structured, and which can only strengthen the good relations and understanding between the Soviet Union and Morocco, while keeping these relations fully independent and impervious to sudden changes of fortune.

EGYPTIAN VICE PRESIDENT ARRIVES FOR TALKS

LD211344Y Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 21 Feb 78 LD

[Summary] Husni Mubarak, Egyptian vice president, arrived at Sale (Rabat) Airport a short while ago. At the airport he was met by Prime Minister Ahmad Osman and other Moroccan officials.

Today's issue of Cairo's AL-AHRAM points out that the object of this visit is to acquaint King Hassan II with the outcome of President as-Sadat's visit to the United States and to Europe recently.

The vice president is being accompanied by an important delegation which includes Maj Gen Husayn Ali and 'Izz ad-Din Mikhtar, the first secretary of the presidency; Shawqi Sawi, the under secretary of the security department; Mustafa Kamal Mansur, the aide of the president of the republic; and 'Abd al-Qahab Zaki, the private secretary of Husni Mubark.

Mubarak Comments

LD212106Y Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 21 Feb 78 LD

[Text] King Hassan II at noon today at the royal court received Husni Mubarak, Egyptian vice president, who late this morning arrived in Rabat on a short visit to Morocco. Private talks were held between the king and Husni Mubarak lasting 1 hour and 15 minutes.

Following this meeting the vice president of the Arab Republic of Egypt was asked about the subject of his talks with the king. He explained that he gave the king a full report on the results of the talks President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat had during his recent visit to the United States and a number of European countries. He went on to say that he exchanged views with the king about this subject, and that he would be conveying to President as-Sadat a clear picture of the king's views. As to whether there is any hope of reaching a real peace in the Middle East region Husni Mubarak said: Why there should be no hope of finding real peace in the region? We are always optimistic and the problem is only that of time.

MAP REPORTS SOMALI FRONT DELEGATION'S VISIT

ID1414440Y Rabat MAP in French 1100 GMT 14 Feb 78 ID

[Text] Rabat--A delegation of the Western Somalia Liberation Front is currently visiting Morocco. The delegation consists of Abdullah Hasan Mahmud, secretary general of the front; Adam Farih Ali; Abd Ahmed Chourta, member of the front's executive committee; and Hassan Omar Barrate. The purpose of the delegation's visit is to publicize the problem of Western Somalia which is waging a dangerous war. The members of this delegation will have contacts with Moroccan leaders and with information organs.

SUDAN

BAKR RECEIVES SOMALI LIBERATION FRONT LEADERS

ID2218262Y Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 22 Feb 78 LD/EA

[Text] Ar-Rashid at-Tahir Bakr, vice president of the republic and foreign minister, received at his office this morning delegations of the Western Somali and Somali-Abo Liberation Fronts [WSLF and SALF], led respectively by Abdullah Hasan Mahmud, WSLF secretary general, and Adam Salih Ali, assistant secretary general of the SALF. They are on a tour of a number of Arab countries. During the meeting the deteriorating situation in the Ogaden Region in light of increasing foreign intervention in the region was reviewed.

The vice president of the republic and foreign minister explained Sudan's firm and clear position on foreign interference in the continent and also Sudan's attitude to the current fighting in the Ogaden.

Abdullah Hasan Mahmud, WSLF secretary general, praised Sudan's courageous postures on the Arab and African issues and its firm position on the side of those fighting for the honor and freedom of the Arab nation and the African Continent.

TUNISIA

IRAQI FINANCE MINISTER LEAVES, MAKES STATEMENT

JN2211315Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1025 GMT 22 Feb 78 JN

[Excerpts] Tunis, 22 February--Iraqi Finance Minister Dr Fawzi 'Abdallah today left Tunis after participating in the meetings of the Arab Economic and Social Council which concluded last night.

Dr 'Abdallah said that the resolutions adopted by the council were important and positive. He said these resolutions will contribute to the process of increasing Arab capital in the Arab area. They will also contribute to the consolidation of Arab financial institutions and help and double the number of Arab companies participating in all fields, including the fields of agriculture and industry.

ATHERTON TRIP SEEN AS MAINTAINING POLITICAL MOMENTUM

TA221956Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 22 Feb 78 TA

[Excerpt] Atherton left for Cairo this afternoon at the end of a first round of talks in Israel. At the airport he said that the talks he had held were good and beneficial for his shuttle trip. Our political correspondent Elimelech Ram reports that at this stage of the negotiations no real progress on the matter of the joint Israeli-Egyptian declaration of intent is to be expected. It is believed in Jerusalem that the present shuttle trip of Mr Atherton is mainly aimed at maintaining the political momentum with a view toward Mr Begin's trip to the United States. Our correspondent also says, basing himself on Western political sources and sources in Jerusalem, that the chances that Jordan will join the negotiations are very slight even if a declaration of intent is reached.

DAYAN STATES VIEWS ON VARIOUS CURRENT ISSUES

Stand on Palestinians

TA221613Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 22 Feb 78 TA

[Text] The Palestinian problem constitutes the central obstacle in the peace negotiations. Without an essential and significant change in Israel's position regarding the Palestinian issue, the present deadlock in the negotiations will not be dissolved. This assessment was made by Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan in a meeting with a group of Knesset members today.

Settlements, Jordanian Role

TA221942Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 22 Feb 78 TA

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan told a group of Knesset members today that in his opinion As-Sadat would want the active participation of Jordan in the process of negotiations and will not settle for a Jordanian statement regarding the acceptance of the declaration of intent.

On the same occasion Dayan added that in his opinion the settlements in the Rafah approaches should be stopped at this stage. As for the settlements in Judaea and Samaria, the foreign minister said that the government plan should be completed and that two additional settlements should be established in the coming months.

West Bank, Egypt

TA221320Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 22 Feb 78 TA

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan said that had the Arabs put forward a proposal to divide Judaea and Samaria, we would not have rejected it outright and would have discussed it seriously. The foreign minister was speaking with a group of Knesset members. One of them asked if in that event we would have discussed the proposal but answered it negatively. The foreign minister replied: Not necessarily.

Mr Dayan estimates it is not the settlement issue that brought about the suspension of negotiations with Egypt. The causes were, in his view, As-Sadat's isolation in the Arab world, Jordan's refusal to join the talks and the Egyptian president's reluctance to sign a separate peace agreement with Israel. Mr Dayan thinks that under the present circumstances Jordan will not join the negotiations. The foreign minister believes, at the same time, that we can reach a peace [illegible] with Egypt. Knesset member Shim'on Peres said this was also his view, based on his [illegible] with As-Sadat in Salzburg.

Remarks on Ethiopia

TA2211547 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 22 Feb 78 TA

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan said in the Knesset that the details he had related about our relations with Ethiopia were meant to put matters in their proper and precise context and correct exaggerated reports that had been published in the world press. The newspapers had reported, among other things, that Israel was supplying to Ethiopia aviation and intelligence services as well as weapons. Thus, the foreign minister had stated the truth when he had said: Israel is selling a small quantity of weapons to Ethiopia, following a request by that country. The foreign minister was replying to two motions for the agenda by Knesset member Yosi Sarid of the Alinement and of Me'ir Pa'il of Sheli.

Mr Sarid accused the foreign minister of having caused, by his statement on Swiss television, grave and irreparable damage. He demanded, and was seconded by Knesset member Pa'il, Mr Dayan's resignation from the post of foreign minister. The motions were struck from the agenda.

FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN 'CLARIFIES' DAYAN REMARK

TA221557Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 22 Feb 78 TA

[From the Afternoon Newsreel]

[Text] The Foreign Ministry spokesman said, regarding Dayan's remark to the effect that Israel will agree to discuss an Arab proposal to divide Judaea and Samaria in the framework of negotiations, that the quote is imprecise. However, the spokesman refused to give the precise quote of the remarks.

JERUSALEM FAVORS RENEWAL OF BEGIN-AS-SADAT CONTACTS

TA221212Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 22 Feb 78 pp 1, 2 TA

[By Yosef Harif]

[Excerpt] Political elements in Israel, including members of government, have expressed the opinion that the best way to advance negotiations between Israel and Egypt is to renew the personal contact between Prime Minister Menahem Begin and Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat--a contact which turned sour during the past few weeks as a result of various misunderstandings.

Rather than this being dependent on a renewed understanding between the prime minister and President Jimmy Carter, progress in the negotiations depends on an understanding between Jerusalem and Cairo--these elements maintain--and, therefore, attempts can be expected to renew the direct contact between Mr Begin and As-Sadat.

COMMENTATOR DISCUSSES U.S.-ISRAEL RELATIONS

TA221807Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 22 Feb 78 p 5 TA

[Shemu'el Segev commentary]

[Text] The Israeli Government's decision to postpone its conclusions on the settlement issue until the deliberations on this issue are exhausted at several additional meetings points toward a tendency to postpone the decision on this key issue until Prime Minister Menahem Begin's visit to Washington next month.

This decision is the result of a feeling that is gaining strength in Jerusalem that Begin's third visit to the White House will be similar, in many respects, to former Prime Minister Yizhaq Rabin's visit to Washington in March last year.

Begin's first visit last July served mainly to create personal ties with the new Democratic administration in Washington and President Carter made a special effort to shower warmth on the "green" prime minister who had just been elected. This good will did not turn sour even when, on the day after his return from Washington, the prime minister ordered the establishment of three new settlements in Judaea and Samaria in a manner that looked like a "smart exercise" and taking refuge behind vague interpretations of ambiguous political definitions. The second visit, on 16 December last year, was aimed at submitting to the U.S. President the Israeli answer to the As-Sadat initiative. However, his visit also caused embarrassment to Israel since both As-Sadat and Carter claimed that Begin had attributed to them remarks which they had never made.

Various signs now point to the fact that the U.S. President has decided to close the circle and to make the key question more poignant to the Israeli prime minister: Is Israel, in return for total peace, prepared to withdraw from the West Bank; or does the Israeli Government prefer to stand by the "administrative autonomy" plan in Judaea and Samaria thus putting an end to Egypt's peace initiative?

The Israeli Government is aware of this and this is the reason for the need to extensively and thoroughly consider the issue and to consolidate a "final position" to be submitted to the U.S. President next month. The need for a fundamental decision of this nature also arises from the tight tiemtable on which the United States is now working and which it is also trying to impose on Israel. At his meeting with a group of Jewish leaders last week President Carter for the first time revealed that President as-Sadat's agreement to continue the political negotiations was limited to 2 months. It transpired that As-Sadat came to the United States intent on informing President Carter of his decision to withdraw from his peace initiative. In the end, he "yielded" to President Carter's pleas on the condition that Carter switch from the role of "mediator" to that of "active partner" in the negotiations with Israel. In addition to filling his shopping basket with 50 modern warplanes, As-Sadat made the continuation of his initiative dependent on the fact that within 2 months the United States would bring about a change in Israel's position on the West Bank issue. It can be assumed that these remarks made to the Jewish leaders were also made to Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan during his meeting with President Carter at the White House last week.

U.S. sources now believe that after President as-Sadat's arms requests have been met it will be possible to extend this "grace period" to more than the 2 months. However, they believe that it is no longer possible to avoid a fundamental decision on the question of the future of the West Bank. They claim that since As-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem, U.S. diplomacy has, with great difficulty, been able to keep King Husayn "on the fence" and prevent him from sliding into the arms of Damascus.

Under such conditions it is clear that the political talks that began in Jerusalem yesterday with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Middle Eastern Affairs Alfred (Roy) Atherton are also gaining a new significance and now appear to be aimed at "bridging the gap" until Begin's visit to Washington.

No one in Jerusalem believes that during Atherton's visit to the Middle East it will be possible to achieve a formula for a "declaration of principles," the practical significance of which would be an Israeli agreement to withdraw from the West Bank. However, in order to maintain what appears to be "political momentum," Carter and As-Sadat agreed to renew Atherton's activity and Israel saw no reason to oppose it. Thus, it can be assumed that President as-Sadat also knows now that no decision can be expected until Menahem Begin's visit to Washington next month.

The Israeli Government's decision to conduct exhaustive deliberations on the political issue shows that it also understands that the "moment of truth" in Washington-Jerusalem relations is approaching and that its decisions will be fateful not only with respect to the nature of relations with the U.S. Government but also with respect to the future of the Middle East.

RIGHTS OF JEWS FROM ARAB COUNTRIES IN NEGOTIATIONS

TA221740Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 22 Feb 78 TA

[From the Afternoon Newsreel]

[Text] The Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee will take up the question of raising the problem of Jews who have come from Arab countries and their rights in the peace negotiations being conducted. This was decided by the Knesset plenum in conclusion of a discussion of a motion for the agenda submitted by Alinement MK Moshe Shahal. Our correspondent in the Knesset, Moshe Hakohen, reports. [begin recording]

The Palestinian issue should not be discussed separately from the rights of the Jews who have come from Arab countries. This was stated by MK Moshe Shahal at the beginning of his speech. The problem of these Jews, Shahal stated, is parallel to and identical with the problem of Arab refugees who left Israel after the independence war. This problem is parallel to that of the Arab refugees in all respects: in timing, in causes, in numerical scope and in possible solutions. MK Shahal remarked with satisfaction that the U.S. Government also recognized this principle of reciprocity and understood that the Palestinian issue should not be discussed without a parallel discussion of the problem of Jews who have come from Arab countries.

[Shahal] Egypt, in the framework of the peace negotiations, raises demands of the third parties. Israel must also raise the problems of a third party, the Jews who have come from Arab countries, Jews other than Egypt's Jews, whether they are in Israel or not.

[Hakohen] MK Shahal demanded that the government immediately give a group of experts in international law the task of preparing a chapter for the peace agreement that will refer to the rights of Jews from Arab countries. Foreign Minister Dayan answered MK Shahal saying that Israel insists that the subject of Jews from Arab countries be included in the peace negotiations with the Arab countries. Therefore, Israel acted for the inclusion of the subject in the Israeli-U.S. working paper. The foreign minister said that Israeli proposals are being prepared on this subject in the relevant offices. According to the foreign minister's proposal, the Knesset has decided to transfer this issue to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee. [end recording]

MILITARY AUTHORITIES ALLOT LAND TO GAZA MUNICIPALITY

TA221452Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 22 Feb 78 TA

[Text] The command of the Gaza Strip complied with the request of the Gaza Municipality to allot to it about 100 dunams of land south of the city in order to establish an industrial area. The area in question is state land. Several people who have right of possession [ba'aley hazaqa] were evacuated. The municipality director told our correspondent, Bassam Jabir, that the municipality wishes to take the plants out of the residential neighborhoods and to concentrate them in an industrial area.

AUSTRIAN DEFENSE MINISTER VISITING, MEETS WEIZMAN

AU221256Y Vienna Domestic Service in German 1158 GMT 22 Feb 78 AU

[Text] Austrian Defense Minister Roesch met in Jerusalem today his Israeli counterpart, 'Ezer Weizman, for an informal talk. According to delegation sources, the question of orders for the Israeli Kfir fighter-bomber was not discussed. Before his talk, Roesch met officers of the Austrian UN contingent on the Golan Heights.

U.S. RABBIS RELATE AS-SADAT REMARKS ON NEGOTIATIONS

TA221750Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 22 Feb 78 TA

[Text] U.S. rabbis who arrived in Israel after a visit to Cairo say that the Egyptian president expressed to them great disappointment with the progress of the negotiations. According to them, President as-Sadat told them that the prime minister's reaction to his visit in Jerusalem is not enough. Nevertheless he still hopes that it will still be possible to reach a peace agreement.

NAQDIMON NAMED PRIME MINISTER'S PRESS ADVISER

TA212022Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 21 Feb 78 TA

[Text] Shelomo Naqdimon, who until recently was YEDI'OT AHARONOT'S political correspondent, began as the prime minister's press adviser as of this morning. Mr Naqdimon will handle the ties with Israeli communications media and with Jewish communications media abroad. Shelomo Naqdimon will enter office officially on 1 March. Two press advisers will serve Mr Begin from now on since adviser Dan Pattir will continue to hold his position.

DULZIN ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF WORLD ZIONIST EXECUTIVE

TA221722Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 22 Feb 78 TA

[Text] This afternoon Arye Delzin was unanimously elected chairman of the Zionist Executive. He was nominated by Finance Minister Simha Ehrlich. Yig'al Allon and Yosef Burg expressed support for the candidate. Prime Minister Begin, in the name of the government, thanked outgoing chairman Yosef Almogy for his service. Mr Begin said that Yosef Almogy is one of the best sons of the people of Israel and that he has served the people in many ways as a loyal and dedicated pioneer. As for Arye Delzin, the prime minister said that his election is proof that a Jew immigrating to Israel can succeed.

GOVERNMENT DENIES REPORTS ON MILITARY AID TO SOMALIA

TA230840Y Paris AFP in English 0811 GMT 23 Feb 78 TA

[Text] Teheran, Feb 23 (AFP)--Iran today formally denied reports that it had delivered military supplies to Somalia which is involved in a conflict with Soviet-supported Ethiopian forces in the Ogaden.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry press attache Parviz Adl said reports published on Feb 21 by the Kuwaiti newspaper AS-SIYASAH were "baseless." The reports claimed 10 Iranian ships had delivered supplies of military material to Somalia during recent weeks.

TEHERAN JOURNAL COMMENTS ON PUNISHMENT OF RIOTERS

LD221330Y Teheran PARS in English 1108 GMT 22 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Teheran, 21 Feb, PANA (PARS NEWS AGENCY)--In an editorial on Tuesday the English language morning newspaper Teheran JOURNAL commented on the following article by saying that....

Minister of State Holaku Rambod's assurance in Parliament today that the government intends to launch a full and conclusive investigation into the Tabriz rioting which has led to considerable loss both in human life and in property is heartening indeed.

The fact that the rioters were equipped with picks and axes, bottles of gasoline, staves and other weapons indicates that this was no spontaneous matter but was deliberately planned and executed. So, it leaves the realm where benefit of the doubt may be applicable to the perpetrators of the unrest.

Rambod's statement that communists were behind the latest trouble and that they were backed by foreign interests is not sufficient to satisfy true Iranians who wish to devote themseleves quietly and peacefully to the development of their country.

Not only should investigations be launched at once but the real troublemakers should be arrested and tried in an open court and punished if the case against them is proved. There can be no feeling of security in the country unless incidents of this kind are stopped.

The residents of Azerbaijan Province are the people whose loyalty to Iran, monarchy and whose belief in God is beyond doubt. So generally speaking, it is for sure that the rioting which took place last Friday and Saturday certainly did not enjoy public support or blessing.

The alarming thing is that violence and terrorism seems to be contagious with some incidents also reported in Qom. While the government has the responsibility for maintaining law and order, the people themselves also have some duties to fulfil.

It is obvious that rioters and other anti-national elements cannot win support from the public unless they embark upon a path of winning public support through peaceful means. They have to rely upon the spirit of adventure of the younger people to win their backing.

The purpose of any government in the world is to try and provide the best possible standard of living for the people under its jurisdiction. Under the guidance of the Shahanshah Aryamehr, successive governments have been trying to do so and any honest appraisal of the standards prevailing in the country would show they are much higher today than they were 15 or 20 years ago and they will certainly continue to rise in the years to come.

Therefore, it is difficult to understand why the communists or other elements should be unhappy unless it is just a case of opposition for the sake of opposition. There is no sense or logic behind such a stand.

Our country is now in a vital stage of its history. The basic [words indistinct] have been [word indistinct] material and intellectual progress and incidents like the Tabriz riots, annoyances though they might be, cannot be permitted to disrupt the effort for nation-building with the participation of every individual.

Disturbances at University

LD211324Y Teheran PARS in English 1107 GMT 22 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Teheran 21 Feb, PANA (PARS NEWS AGENCY)--A group of saboteurs pretending to be national university students and shouting anti-state slogans attacked two guards of the university, the guard booth, and four university staff cars and smashed a number of windows yesterday. The saboteurs were dispersed by loyal students.

IRAN TO ESTABLISH COMMUNICATION SATELLITE SYSTEM

LD191522Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 1000 GMT 19 Feb 78 LD

[Text] In an interview given to our correspondent, Minister of Post, Telegraph and Telephone Mo'tamedi spoke about his ministry's programs for the expansion of communication networks of the country, saying:

[Mo'tamedi--begin recording] In order to expand the country's communications to meet its needs and in order to be able to transmit television programs so that nearly 100 percent coverage is given to educational programs, it has been decided to place an independent national satellite system in orbit. The satellite system will begin with two satellites and will then be increased within 1 or 2 years to three satellites in order to provide coverage for the country as a whole. The first satellite is expected to be placed in orbit within the next 3 and 1/2 to 4 years.

NEPAL

KOIRALA ACQUITTED OF SECOND TREASON CHARGE

OW2217327 Hong Kong AFP in English 1716 GMT 22 Feb 78 OW

[Excerpt] Katmandu Feb 22 (AFP)--The deposed Premier B.P. Koirala was acquitted of the second charge of treason today by the one man special tribunal.

The tribunal of zonal court Judge Mr Janak Man Shrestha in its judgement declared that Mr Koirala was "not guilty" of the tresson charges levelled against him concerning the Jhapa Dhulabari bomb case.

Mr Koirala is still facing five more state offences cases each carrying the death penalty if found "guilty".

The special tribunal constituted by the Nepalese Law Ministry last year begun its trial since Monday last "in camera" and it is expected to finalise the remaining five cases by Monday next.

The other five remaining state offences cases are Mr Koirala's attempt to organise popular revolts at Nuwakot, Dhading and Rasuwa with the intention of replacing the present partyless Panchayat's policy by democratic socilaism, and trying to trigger disturbances by means of armed revolution with the aim of overthrowing the existing system. The trial on these cases is expected to begin by early next week.

Tomorrow the trial will begin on two charges of treason against Mr Koirala of the "Sarlahi and Syangja bomb" cases respectively.

According to Mr Koirala's senior advocate Mr Ganesh Raj Sharma, the tribunal in its verdict today held that the government prosecutor had "relied" on the confession of several co-accused and there was no "independent credible evidence" to prove the guilt of Mr Koirala.

Mr K. Shrestha, another senior advocate of Mr Koirala, told the press that there are altogether twenty-four co-accused and their confessions were contradictory to each other. They were arrested following the recovery of guns and ammunition hiding in two houses at Jhapa and Dhulabari.

Mr Koirala was produced [word as received] before the tribunal from 0100 hours to 1700 hours local time.

Released on Bail

BK230415Y Hong Kong AFP in English 0300 GMT 23 Feb 78 BK

[Text] Katmandu, Feb. 23 (AFP)--Deposed Premier Biseswore Prasad Koirala, 64, was released on bail today to enable him to travel abroad for medical treatment, it was officially announced.

The official radio announcement said King Birendra had ordered the release of Mr Koirala following recommendation of the Council of Ministers.

The state offence cases against Mr Koirala will be kept pending until his return to Katmandu after the treatment.

Mr Koirala is now resting at his residence at Chabahel near Katmandu and is likely to leave for New York for treatment in a day or two, sources close to him reported.

Nepalese radio, which announced the news about the release of Mr Koirala in its early news bulletin, stated: "The Nepalese Council of Ministers, acting on the basis of the report of doctors attending Mr Koirala, that he was unwell and his treatment was not possible in the kingdom, have recommended to King Birendra that he (Koirala) be freed on bail so that he may arrange to get necessary medical treatment."

The announcement added, "His Majesty King Birendra has graciously accepted the recommendation and has ordered the court to act accordingly."

Mr Koirala was due in court this morning to begin the trial against him on the Sarlahi-Syangja bomb (?case).

Observers recalled that the court already acquitted Mr Koirala yesterday of two similar bomb cases.

Mr Koirala underwent a first operation in New York in June last year.

PAKISTAN

PRC OFFICIAL AFFIRMS SUPPORT FOR PAKISTAN SOVEREIGNTY

BK2210407Y Karachi Overseas Service in English 0930 GMT 22 Feb 78 BK

[Text] The leader of the delegation of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, Mr Wang Ping-nan, has said that China will continue to support Pakistan in its just struggle to safeguard its national independence and sovereignty and combat interference from outside. He was speaking at a banquet given in Islamabad last night in honor of the Chinese delegation by the adviser on foreign affairs, Mr Agha Shahi. He said the Chinese people will always be reliable friends of Pakistan and they rejoice over Pakistan's progress. He said the chief martial law administrator's visit to China December last had made a positive contribution for the consolidation of Pakistan-China friendship.

Earlier the adviser of foreign affairs, Mr Agha Shahi, said Pakistan was convinced that under the wise guidance of Chairman Hua Kuo-feng and Vice Premier Teng Hsiao-ping the traditional friendship between the people of the two countries would remain a model for the Asian region. He said the present government attaches high importance to Pakistan-China relations and China's economic cooperation would go a long way in helping Pakistan to develop a self-reliant economy.

SRI LANKA

JAYEWARDENE RETURNS FROM SYDNEY COMMONWEALTH MEETING

BK2211317Y Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 22 Feb 78 BK

[Text] The president, Mr J.R. Jayewardene, returned to the island last night after attending the historic meeting of the Commonwealth heads of state regional meeting in Sydney, Australia. The president was received by the prime minister, Mr R. Premadasa; the speaker of the National State Assembly, Mr Ananda Tissa De Alvis; and the Australian high commissioner, Mr Borthwick. Several cabinet ministers, parliamentarians and a large crowd of well-wishers also greeted Mr Jayewardene on his return.

The president arrived from Singapore where he was hosted to a lunch yesterday by Singapore's President Sheares. Informal talks on economic collaboration were also held with the prime minister, Mr Lee Kuan Yew. Earlier in Australia, the president delivered the keynote address on world and regional political trends and made a plea for complete disarmament. He also discussed matters of mutual benefit with several Asian leaders attending the regional meeting.

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